

Bush blasts story of tryst as 'a lie'

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — An angry President George Bush on Tuesday branded as "a lie" a report that he had an affair with a long-time associate, Jennifer Fitzgerald. Mr. Bush was asked during a news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin about a report in the New York Post that a former ambassador, now dead, had arranged for Mr. Bush and Fitzgerald to stay in adjoining rooms in Geneva in 1984. "I am not going to take any silly questions like that from CNN (Cable News Network)," Mr. Bush said heatedly. "I am very disappointed that you would ask such a question of me." He quickly added, "I will not respond to it. I haven't responded in the past. I am outraged, but nevertheless in this kind of screwy climate we're in, I expect it. But I don't like and I'm not going to respond, other than to say it is a lie." Rumours have dogged Mr. Bush for years about Mr. Fitzgerald, who currently holds a high State Department post and has been a long-time associate of Mr. Bush, including when he was an envoy to China.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأسي

Volume 17 Number 5077

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1992, SAFR 12,1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Iraq exploring new oilfield

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is exploring a new oilfield found in its western desert and expects to end drilling tests next year, the official Al Jumhuriyah newspaper said Tuesday. It quoted a source at the Oil Ministry as saying the Akkash field in the western desert was 35 kilometres long, seven kilometres wide and had a layer of 100 metres of oil at 5,000 metres below the surface. A second oil refinery production line at Basra was reopened on Monday, bringing capacity back to its pre-Gulf war level of 70,000 barrels per day (bpd) of lubricants, diesel and liquefied gas, Al Iraq newspaper said on Tuesday. The refinery was one of two at Basra destroyed by bombing during the Gulf war. Al Jumhuriyah on Monday quoted Oil Ministry Under-Secretary Taher Hamoud Mousa as saying Iraq's oil refining capacity was now 590,000 bpd, 140,000 bpd more than necessary to meet domestic demand.

Kuwait boosts revenues, narrows deficit

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait has narrowed its budget deficit and markedly raised its oil revenues in the current fiscal year, the finance minister said Tuesday. Minister Nasser Al Rodan said the deficit in the 1992-93 budget fell to 1.783 billion dinars (\$6.2405 billion, about a third of the 5.436-billion-dinar (\$18.48 billion) deficit in the last fiscal year. A recent Al Shal economic report said the country was facing chronic deficits due to the free-spending ways of the government. Oil revenues for the new year have risen to two billion dinars (\$7 billion), with an increase of 1.3 billion dinars (\$4.55 billion) over last year's, the minister said. The emirate is now producing 1.3 million barrels a day.

16 die in Chinese helicopter crash

BEIJING (R) — At least 16 people were killed when their Soviet-made helicopter crashed near the Great Wall on the outskirts of China's capital, Beijing, on Tuesday, the Japanese embassy said. An embassy official said by telephone the helicopter was carrying 18 Japanese and six Chinese, including four crew. The identities of the dead have not yet been clear. The remaining eight were on their way to hospital. The Japanese had rented the MI-8 helicopter to sightsee at the Juyongguan section of the wall, about 75 kilometres northwest of the centre of the capital.

Irish minister sees Somalia's plight

DUBLIN (AP) — Foreign Minister David Andrews on Tuesday promised to lobby for more U.N. and European Community aid to Somalia, "a land that God has forgotten." Mr. Andrews, on a three-day visit to the Horn of Africa country, said it was "very traumatic to see people dying before your eyes and more particularly young children. It is something that the world community will have to address and address with some immediacy." He spoke in an interview from Mogadishu with Irish state-run RTE radio. "Whilst the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is an obscenity, what's happening out here — if you can have degrees of obscenity — must be a worse obscenity." Mr. Andrews, whose fact-finding mission was organised by Irish aid organisations, said he will report to the British government, current holder of the rotating E.C. presidency, and to the U.N. secretary-general. (U.N. continues assessment, page 7)

Kurds force cut in supplies to Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's rebel Kurds are forcing supplies to be cut off to Kurds in northern Iraq, who are already suffering from a blockade by the Iraqis, an Iraqi Kurdish spokesman said on Tuesday. Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels have threatened reprisals to truck drivers, preventing them from taking supplies through the Habur border, gate since July 22, Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) representative in Ankara, Safeco Dizayee, said.

King: Jordan appreciates Arab aid but no comparison with help Israel received

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that Jordan deeply appreciates the support and assistance it had received from other Arab states but that there could not be any comparison between the Arab aid to Jordan and external assistance that Israel received. "We appreciate Arab assistance and we will never deny what the other Arabs offered under various circumstances but placing this assistance in the balance we find that what we had received falls far below any level of assistance offered to the Jewish state. Despite this fact that Kingdom's accomplishments were great, achieved in the face of numerous upheavals," the King said in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo.

"Jordan has been at the forefront in all matters related to collective Arab action, seeking meetings with other Arab states and keen to offer to the Arab Nation all possible assistance," he said.

The King was speaking in a Radio Monte Carlo programme

dedicated to Jordan, marking the 40th anniversary of the King's accession to the throne. The interview was conducted by Randa Habib. "We have stood by our brothers with all our resources and offered sacrifices whenever we were asked through blood and souls in defence of the nation's right to life," said the King. The King reviewed the long periods of national and Arab struggle waged by Jordan since the establishment of the Kingdom under the leadership of the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and expressed pride in all that the country has achieved at the local, pan-Arab and international levels. On the role Jordan has been playing to uphold the Palestine cause, the King said that Palestine "has always been our obsession and Jerusalem its gem."

He said Jordan has not only served as a bridge to Palestine through its proximity to the occupied land and its people and their rights, but also a link between the whole Arab Nation and Palest-

ine. The King recalled Jordan's stand at the time of the June 1967 war and the "consequent tremors that shook the Arab Nation, especially that which occurred in 1990 (the Gulf crisis)." He reaffirmed the Kingdom's continued quest to convey its own views to the other Arab countries. On the democratic process in Jordan, the King said that the course of democracy has always been sought by Jordan. But the setbacks facing Jordan and the Arab Nation had denied the Kingdom the democratic process for a long time, King Hussein said. He referred in particular to the National Charter, "which is now dominating the Kingdom's democratic march in various fields."

"Indeed I have been following in the footsteps of my grandfather, the founder of the Kingdom, ever since I acceded to the throne and I had to pursue the course he had charted despite the many obstacles and the challenges. I will continue to offer whatever I can to my people."



deeply proud of my nation and my faith," King Hussein said. "I am particularly proud of being a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad," he added. He said that the Jordanian family had always served as his own family. He said his life had been a long series of hard struggle but he was glad to have "a clear conscience as I feel totally belonging to this family, working for them and with them towards a better future."

Recalling the major activities he embarked on in the course of serving the nation, King Hussein referred in particular to the Ara-

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Bush approves \$10 billion in loan guarantees for Israel

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (Agencies) — President George Bush announced his approval Tuesday of up to \$10 billion in loan guarantees that Israel has long sought to help settle a flood of immigrants from the former Soviet Union. The president said he would "recommend enthusiastically" acceptance of the guarantees by Congress, which has the final say. At a news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Bush said he expected to submit the legislation later in the day. He said the guarantees, long a sticking point between the two sides, "can make a critical contribution to Israel's future."

Mr. Bush also hailed the newly-elected Rabin's commitment to reinvigorate the Middle

East peace process, and called on Arabs to show a similar commitment. He said he would continue to uphold Israel's military edge over its neighbours. Mr. Rabin called Mr. Bush's action on loan guarantees "a significant step" in Israel's attempt to deal with refugees from the former Soviet Union as well as from Ethiopia. "It means a lot to me and to Israel, and again thank you very much," he said. The announcement — following Mr. Bush's hosting of Mr. Rabin at his Maine seacoast home — underscored a distinct warming in relations between the United States and Israel. Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir had long sought the guarantees, but the U.S. govern-

ment refused to agree as long as Israel persisted with construction of new housing settlements on the occupied lands. Mr. Rabin, elected in June, has essentially suspended new settlements, and taken other steps to demonstrate interest in peace with Arab states. Mr. Bush said U.S. policy would continue to favour a "qualitative edge" in military power for Israel. He said it's never possible to predict where the next crisis may arise. "You rely on friends. Israel is not only important as a friend," but has demonstrated "strategic reliability," he said. Both leaders devoted a portion of their remarks to the peace talks, expected to resume in

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U.S. move seen as 'free bonus' for Israel while Palestinians get nothing

By Suhair Obaidat with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan Tuesday maintained formal silence over U.S. President George Bush's approval for Israel's request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees, but officials and analysts said in private that it meant rewarding Israel without a balancing gesture towards the Palestinians. Noting that Mr. Bush's decision to drop his objections to the Israeli request has come against Israeli moves to freeze part of its settlement activities in the occupied territories, an official said that it has yet to be established that there would be a total suspension of settlement construction. "Mr. Bush did not clearly spell out that there would be a freeze

on settlements and Israel really do not want to freeze settlements but have given (continued building) another name," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. An analyst supported this argument and said: "A free bonus was given to Israel, while nothing of substance was given to the Palestinians."

"I think this will have a negative reaction among the Arabs and Palestinians negotiating with Israel," the analyst added. "This will lift the pressure off the Israelis and instead of being forthcoming at the negotiations table, this might encourage them to procrastinate," he said. Another analyst believed that the U.S. move directed a blow to the Arab parties to the Midcast

peace negotiations and strengthened the position of the Israelis. "Now, they (Israelis) will go to Washington with a trump card in hand, while those on the other side of the table have a weaker position," he said. The sixth round of Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks are scheduled to resume in Washington Aug. 24 and continue over a period of one month. Palestinians said the U.S. would undermine its role as a peace broker if it granted the loan guarantees without a complete settlement freeze. "If the loan guarantees are given while settlement activities are continuing then this invali-

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Palestinians say no change in approach as outlined in plan presented in February

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinians closely involved in peace talks with Israel are disavowing a reported plan for interim self-government arrangements in the occupied territories which they say falls short of three key elements in the Palestinian approach to the negotiations. They say that a proposal they submitted to Israel earlier this year is the only plan that they ever discussed or approved and all other reports are baseless. Palestinian negotiators and advisors as well as members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee say that the latest "plan," which has been among journalists and was published in a local newspaper Sunday, does not represent the Palestinian position. "Nor was it ever discussed by the Palestinian leadership or negotiators, let alone approved," said Suleiman Najib, a PLO Executive Committee member. "We do not know anything about

it." "It is totally unfounded and the Palestinian negotiators have no relation whatsoever with it," said Saeb Erekat, a member of the delegation to peace talks. "The only plan that we have is the PISGA (Palestinian interim self-government arrangement) plan that we submitted in February" in the fourth round of bilateral talks with Israel in Washington, Dr. Erekat told the Jordan Times. The plan, as reported in the local daily, sidesteps "the three cornerstones of the Palestinian approach — sovereignty, land and elections" — as have been outlined in the PISGA plan, Dr. Erekat said. "It looks like a translated version of the Sol Linowitz plan," the centrepiece of aborted Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on Palestinian autonomy which followed the 1979 Camp David agreement. Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, also rejected the report. "We are not in any way responsible for whatever was presented in this report anonymously and which

does not reflect the work and deliberations of the Palestinian team," Dr. Ashrawi was quoted as saying by Reuters. "It is not an official Palestinian position. The Palestinian position has been presented in the previous negotiating rounds." Tayseer Aroui, an advisor to the Palestinian delegation, described the reported plan as "a product of someone's imagination." "Do we need someone to come and present a modified version of Camp David?" he commented. The Palestinian stand, as outlined in the PISGA plan, calls for a total suspension of Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories and respect for the human rights of the Palestinian people and Geneva conventions before negotiations could enter substantial discussions on issues related to interim self-government during a five-year period pending a final agreement on the status of the territories. The reported new plan, while delving into "details" of self-government arrangements, does

not include any of these elements. On the contrary, it suggests that these issues could be discussed and sorted out during negotiations. "That's like putting the cart before the horse," commented a Palestinian analyst. "The very essence of the PISGA plan is Israeli agreement to suspend all settlement activities and implementation of the relevant Geneva conventions as a confidence-building measure." Informed sources said the plan was drawn up by Mamdouh Nofal, an advisor to the Palestinian negotiators, and submitted to PLO Executive Committee member Mahmood Abbas for consideration. "The proposal, in its original form, clearly stated, in Mr. Nofal's own handwriting, that it was the personal views of Mr. Nofal and does not represent the position of the Palestinian negotiators," said one source. No comment was available from Mr. Abbas, who, according to the report, had reached agree-

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Abed Rabbo assails U.S. refusal to renew dialogue

TUNIS (Agencies) — An official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Tuesday Washington's renewed refusal to resume dialogue with the PLO was an electoral ploy by the U.S. administration. PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo was commenting on a statement on Monday by a senior U.S. official that Washington was not ready to resume the dialogue despite Israeli moves to legalise the PLO. "The conditions have been fulfilled and the problem is over since a long time... there is an attempt (by the U.S. administration) to escape reality," Mr. Abed Rabbo said. "It is only a pretext for electoral considerations," added Mr. Abed Rabbo, one of the PLO's four-man delegation to its short-lived dialogue with the U.S. administration between December 1989 and June 1990. Israel's new government said on Sunday it would propose changing a 1986 law that prohibits Israel from contacting the PLO. The U.S. official, briefing reporters on Monday on talks between President George Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, was asked if the United States would also relax its policy. "We are not in the process of changing our position on the PLO — the basic conditions which President Bush outlined after the terrorist incident in Israel," he said. "And those conditions would

have to be fulfilled before the United States government would contemplate a resumption of the dialogue with the PLO," the official added. Mr. Bush suspended the dialogue after an abortive May 1990 attack on an Israeli beach by the Palestinian Liberation Front (PLF), a small faction of the PLO. The United States has said the dialogue will resume only if PLO condemns the operation and takes disciplinary action against PLF leader Mohammad Abbas (Abo Abbas), then a member of the PLO's 15-member Executive Committee. The PLO responded by condemning all attacks on civilians but did not specifically denounce the raid on Israel. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat obtained Abn Abbas' resignation from the Executive Committee at the following session of the Palestinian National Council in 1991. The intent to decriminalise meetings with PLO officials was disclosed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to an Italian newspaper and confirmed Sunday by his deputy, Yossi Beilin. Mr. Beilin said Mr. Rabin's government would still bar PLO leaders, particularly Mr. Arafat, from directly taking part in peace talks. Current law specifies a jail term of up to three years for contacts with the PLO. Mr. Arafat Monday issued a

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Mubarak in new effort to resolve Libyan crisis

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak arrived in Libya Tuesday and met with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in an effort to resolve Tripoli's crisis with the West over the Lockerbie case. The meeting comes four days before the U.N. Security Council is scheduled to review air, arms and diplomatic sanctions against Libya. The sanctions were imposed after Libya refused to hand over to the United States or Britain two suspects in the explosion of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. Libya's official news agency JANA said Mr. Mubarak received an official welcome ceremony at Tripoli airport where he was met by Colonel Qadhafi and other high-ranking Libyan officials. The agency said the two leaders immediately went into meeting attended by senior officials on both sides. Official media said the talks were attended by some of the two leaders' most senior colleagues: Col. Qadhafi's second in command Abdul Salam Jalloud, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Mr. Mubarak's long-serving political advisor, Osama Al Baz. Neither the Libyan news agency JANA nor Egyptian media said exactly what Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Qadhafi discussed. JANA referred to "a comprehensive review of international conditions."

But Egypt has made repeated attempts to resolve the nine-month-old crisis between Libya and the West. The Security Council imposed its sanctions on April 15 because Libya failed to hand over the suspects. The sanctions resolution also demanded action to prove Libya had broken links with international terrorism and cooperation with investigations into the bombing of a French airliner over Niger in 1989. Libya has gone some way to meet Western demands, agreeing that the Lockerbie suspects can be tried in a "just and fair court" and giving British information on links with Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas. But Western governments believe Libya is playing for time and they are likely to discuss tightening the sanctions when the Security Council meets on Aug. 15 to review the crisis. Diplomats say Libya is sending envoys to Security Council member states to lobby for a four-month postponement of the meeting. Libya's General People's Congress, its equivalent of a parliament, was supposed to decide the fate of the suspects in June but its "just and fair court" formula resolved nothing in the eyes of the West. At a meeting in Geneva before the congress, Libya did provide Britain with information on the IRA which diplomats said in-

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Lebanese opposition to boycott polls despite warnings

BEIRUT (R) — Christian opponents of Lebanon's first general elections in 20 years ignored a warning by President Elias Hrawi Monday and insisted they would boycott the polls, due to start on Aug. 23. "Our obligatory position remains the same: Boycotting the electoral operations as candidates and voters," the main Christian opposition groups said in a statement after a meeting of Christian leaders at the Maronite Christian patriarchy. Mr. Hrawi earlier warned them against a boycott, saying they would be pushing the war-shattered country into the unknown. "The objections at the elections are aimed at hitting the national reconciliation... and at dividing and destroying the country which is still suffering from the disasters of 15 years of war," Mr. Hrawi said in a statement. "Any attempt to go backward and lock the country into multifaceted civil wars will not yield the results the instigators hope to get."

Rocket attacks rage in Kabul; fighting erupts outside

KABUL (Agencies) — Dozens of rockets hit Kabul at dawn Tuesday while frightened residents hid in fragile, sun-baked mud homes for another day. Defence Ministry officials said. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Government sources said 1,000 people were killed or injured Monday in the deadliest rocket attack since insurgents took power in April. Witnesses said shelling Tuesday was not as heavy as the previous day, when an estimated 600 rockets slammed into the capital in an hour. The Defence Ministry blamed the rocketing on fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami guerrillas, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Factions are divided along religious, ethnic and tribal lines. The latest round of fighting began last week, pitting Sunni and Shiite rebels against each other as well as pro-government forces against Hezb-e-Islami. Pro-government forces used air power to back heavy fighting Tuesday against the guerrillas outside the capital, Afghan sources said. Government planes screamed over the city, bombing rocket positions of Hezb in Logar, to the south of Kabul, the sources said. Government forces seized at least one rocket brigade captured by the Hezb guerrillas last April, the sources said.

Troops loyal to Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud also captured the Kabul house of Prime Minister Abdul Saboor Farid, who is Mr. Hekmatyar's nominee to the three-month-old Islamic government, one source said. Mr. Farid is on a visit to Tebran. Mr. Hekmatyar, one of several Mujahideen partners in the interim coalition, stepped up his sporadic bombardment of the capital last week forcing closure of the airport. Mr. Hekmatyar has refused to cooperate fully with President Burhanuddin Rabbani until an Uzbek militia withdraws from the city. Heavy fighting was raging between the powerful Uzbek militia and Mr. Hekmatyar's forces about 16 kilometres outside Kabul in Hod Khel near the military university, the sources said. Hezb troops have seized control of the Pata Qawala area, east of the capital, taking prisoner at least 40 members of Mr. Masoud's Kamiat-e-Islami group, the sources said. Kabul was under virtual siege with only tanks moving in the streets. "A curfew-like situation prevails," one source said. Hospitals had no space to treat the hundreds of injured and were running out of medicines, he said.

Eng. Sabri Farah has the honour to convey to

HIS MAJESTY KING HUSSEIN

his felicitations and best wishes on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of His Majesty accession to the Throne

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Democrats say attorney general protecting Bush on Iraq policy

WASHINGTON (R) — Democrats in Congress, in what could be a hot campaign issue for them in November elections, are accusing the top government lawyer of trying to protect President George Bush from an investigation of U.S. policy on Iraq.

Attorney General William Barr on Monday rejected a request by House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Democrats for an independent counsel to investigate whether administration officials broke laws restricting aid and exports to Iraq before the Gulf war and then tried to cover up the violations. He said there was no evidence of illegal activity.

"Today's decision... falls like a Scud missile in the middle of the effort to get the truth," Democratic Representative Charles Schumer of New York said after Mr. Barr's decision was announced.

"What is the administration trying to hide in the record of its assistance to Saddam Hussein? It is stonewalling, plain and simple," said Judiciary Committee

Chairman Jack Brooks of Texas. "Mr. Barr is playing a dangerous political game in a desperate effort to protect the Bush administration," Representative Henry Gonzalez, Democrat of Texas, added.

But Republican committee member George Gekas of Pennsylvania said Democrats were just trying to hurt Mr. Bush.

"The Democrats were on a politically motivated fishing expedition, but the only thing they could catch were red herrings," he said.

Mr. Barr, in response to a July 9 letter from the Democrats, said, "The letter fails to identify any particular person alleged to have committed a crime, or to describe any particular acts alleged to constitute a crime."

Mr. Barr said one of the main allegations was that U.S. loans for American commodities were diverted by Iraq for military purposes. He said it was not a diversion took place and no evidence that U.S. officials were involved if there was a diversion of funds.

Mr. Gonzalez, in a series of speeches, has accused the Bush administration of ignoring information that Iraq was using U.S. companies and banks to build up its military.

"In part deliberately, in part through sheer neglect, the Bush administration did little or nothing to stop Saddam Hussein's ambitious efforts," Mr. Gonzalez said Monday.

Mr. Bush has said he was trying to improve relations with Iraq up until Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait two years ago, which led to the 1991 Gulf war between Iraq and a U.S.-led coalition.

The independent counsel law was passed in response to President Richard Nixon's firing of special counsel Archibald Cox in 1973 during the Watergate investigation.

It allows a majority of the House of Representatives to ask for an independent counsel to investigate possible criminal violations that might involve the administration. If the request is denied, the attorney general must explain why, but the decision cannot be appealed.

Iraq slams U.N. human rights investigator

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Tuesday denounced a U.N. human rights investigator who accused it of indiscriminately bombing its southern villages, saying he was a "vicious tool" of U.S.-led campaign.

"Max van der Stoep seems to be a new name added to the lists of agents who want to work against Iraq," the Defence Ministry daily Al Qadisiyah said in an editorial headlined "He is a conspirator."

Mr. Van der Stoep, a former Netherlands foreign minister and a special investigator of the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Commission, called in a report last month for monitoring teams to be sent all over Iraq to

report on abuses. He was due to address the Security Council on Tuesday on allegations of human rights violations by Iraq against its own civilians.

Iraq strongly denied Mr. Van der Stoep's charges last week. "Justice will win in the end while Van der Stoep and his followers are vicious tools that will be uncovered," Al Qadisiyah said. "It seems his new post was given to him at a time when Washington was escalating its aggressive campaign against Iraq by creating pretexts and methods to escalate its campaign."

Al Qadisiyah said he should speak out on "crimes" against the

Iraqi people. "He should work on the issue of Iraqi children dying in their thousands because of lack of food and medicine."

The United States, Britain, France and Belgium, in letters circulated on Monday, called for an urgent Security Council meeting to discuss human rights in Iraq.

They each proposed that the council invite the participation of Mr. Van der Stoep, who published his report last month. The four Western powers all referred in their letters to an April 1991 Security Council resolution condemning the repression of civilians in many parts of Iraq, including the Kurdish-populated areas in the north.

Mujahedeen blame Tehran for Bonn killing

BERLIN (AP) — Police in Bonn said Monday they had no new information on the slaying there last week of Iranian singer Faridoun Farokhzad, Iranian opposition groups blamed the Tehran government for the killing.

Mr. Farokhzad, 48, was a famous entertainer in Iran before the Islamic fundamentalist revolution, and had homes in Bonn and in France, the Bonn police said.

The howling of the singer's two dogs brought police to his Bonn apartment last Friday, and Mr. Farokhzad's body was found with multiple stab wounds.

Police theorize he was killed last Monday night, after cries for help alarmed neighbours, but when police investigated, they could not find the source of the cries in a large apartment complex.

On Monday, the Mujahedeen-Khalq of Iran issued statements in the Middle East and Washington denouncing the slaying as the work of the Tehran government. The National Council of Resistance of Iran, based in Paris and linked to the Mujahedeen, blamed the Iranian embassy in Germany, "and their diplomat-terrorists."

The Bonn-based newspaper Die Welt said Monday that Mr. Farokhzad had been a member of the Paris-based resistance group and had fought actively against the Islamic government in Iran. Die Welt said the Tehran government tried to put him on trial in 1980 because the lyrics of his rock songs attacked the theocratic rule in Iran, but he fled to Turkey.

The attacks subsided after 1986, Die Welt said, but then this June, Iranian papers said he had travelled to Iraq. Mr. Farokhzad denied making the trip, Die Welt said.

U.N. team continues Somalia aid assessment

NAIROBI (AP) — Ireland's foreign minister went to Somalia on Monday while a U.N. team continued its tour of the devastated country, assessing the needs and dangers of a planned airlift to feed its starving millions.

Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews arrived Monday from Dublin and stopped briefly in Nairobi before heading to Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, on a Red Cross plane.

Mr. Andrews, whose trip is being coordinated by Concern, an Irish charity, said he plans to meet with rival warlords Ali Mahdi Mohammed and General Mohammad Farrah Aidede. He will tour Mogadishu and visit three towns outside the capital, Afgoi, Baidoa and Bardera, before leaving Wednesday.

"I would like to think that as the only foreign minister from the European Community to visit Somalia I could bring the attention of my colleagues to the plight of this forgotten nation," Andrews told the Associated Press by telephone.

Drought and warfare following the ouster of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991 has killed tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of Somalis.

Insufficient food, much of which is looted by heavily armed bandits, has been reaching the Horn of Africa country and aid workers say 1.5 million people could die within weeks. Another 4.5 million people are in danger of starvation and also need assistance.

Aid workers say 500 to 700 people are dying daily in Baidoa alone, even though they have opened feeding kitchens and are delivering relief supplies to the town 280 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu.

No one knows the toll in the southwestern town of Bardera, which was inaccessible to relief agencies until recently due to fighting between Gen. Aidede's forces and remnants of Mr. Siad Barre's forces.

Gen. Aidede, whose vicious four-month battle in Mogadishu

with Mr. Ali Mahdi is largely blamed for the country's current humanitarian disaster, gained control of Bardera in late June.

The United Nations, which was slow to respond to Somalia's plight, plans a massive airlift to help stem hunger deaths and has sent a 23-member team to assess the logistics and dangers of such an operation.

It wants to send an armed security force of at least 500 to guard food shipments, but Gen. Aidede is strongly opposed to the plan. He argues that such a force would interfere with the country's sovereignty. Mr. Ali Mahdi has endorsed the proposed force.

The U.N. team, headed by former U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Peter Hansen, arrived Thursday in Somalia. The group visited Bardera, where it met with Gen. Aidede, toured Mogadishu and met with Mr. Ali Mahdi, visited Baidoa and visited the southern port city of Kisumu.

On Tuesday, the team planned

Activists say they tried to kill Algerian minister

ALGIERS (R) — Muslim activists claimed on Tuesday they tried to assassinate State Security Minister Mohammed Tolba during a shootout in Algiers.

An underground bulletin issued by the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) said the abortive attack took place last Wednesday in the smart Hydra quarter on the heights above the city.

"In an attempt to execute (Mohamed) Tolba, Si Yahia alias Rougi added his name to the long list of Algerian martyrs," the bulletin entitled Minbar Al Joma (Friday Tribune) said.

It is the first time since January when a wave of violence erupted in Algeria that Muslim activists openly claimed responsibility for an armed attack.

Last Thursday the local daily Le Matin reported that a "terrorist" had been shot dead in the vicinity of Mr. Tolba's house in Hydra.

The paper was among three dailies suspended by the authorities on Saturday after printing Mr. Tolba's exact home address in a report of the incident.

More than 100 members of the police and paramilitary gendarmerie have been slain in various parts of the country since a state of emergency was proclaimed in February following the cancellation of elections the FIS was poised to win.

Muslim activists are generally blamed for the violence, seen as a protest against cancellation of the elections, the banning of the FIS and the jailing of its leaders.

It was not clear whether the FIS itself was directly responsible for the reported attack on Mr. Tolba who apparently escaped unscathed.

An official panel investigating the assassination of Head of State Mohamed Boudiaf has Monday urged greater cooperation from the country's intelligence services.

"In view of the gravity of the crime which has been committed against the state and the Algerian people, all the forces of investigation in the country should feel automatically compelled to help unmask all those... who directly or indirectly allowed the assassination of the president," the six-member commission said in a statement.

The panel was set up on July 2 by Algeria's collective presidency to investigate Mr. Boudiaf's killing on June 29 in the eastern town of Annaba.

Loan guarantees could boost immigration to Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. approval of loan guarantees could help Israel attract more Jews from the Soviet Union, Simcha Dinitz, head of the Jewish Agency, said Tuesday.

Mr. Dinitz, who directs the agency charged with bringing Jews here, said in an interview that many Soviet Jews delayed moving to Israel because of the lack of jobs.

"The loan guarantees are a factor affecting the psychology of immigration," Mr. Dinitz said. "If approved today... before there is a single new job created, the knowledge the guarantees are available will have an effect on Soviet Jews."

The Bush administration was expected to announce the approval on Tuesday of all or part of some \$10 billion Israel has requested in loan guarantees.

The guarantees will allow the Jewish state to borrow funds on international markets at favourable rates.

Israel is expected to use most of the money it raises to create jobs and improve the country's roads, telephones, and water and sewer systems.

Israel had hoped to bring one million Jews from the former Soviet Union by the end of 1992.

But the flow of immigrants has dropped to a rate of about 4,600 a month, one-third the pace of 1990. Most blame the lack of jobs.

Mr. Dinitz now predicts that the one million mark will be reached only in 1997, "assuming no major convulsion in the Soviet Union."

So far, some 376,000 have come since the former Soviet Union relaxed its emigration policies in the spring of 1989.

Mr. Dinitz said that some 1.2 million Jews in the former Soviet states have registered to move to Israel but have not followed through and gotten exit visas.

"If they are limiting (their departure) because of conditions in Israel, we have to correct the conditions," Mr. Dinitz said.

Mr. Dinitz, a former ambassador to the United States, has headed the Jewish Agency since 1987. Its \$630 million budget this year includes a \$80 million grant from the United States to assist in immigrant absorption.

Israeli Arabs demand U.N. end Bosnia fighting

TEL AVIV (R) — Angry Israeli Arab mayors demonstrated Tuesday in front of the Yugoslav embassy in Tel Aviv demanding an end to the killing of Muslims in Bosnia.

Leaders of the 750,000-strong Arab minority in Israel accused Western nations of neglecting Yugoslav Muslims and demanded the United Nations order the use of force against the Serbs. Some 85 per cent of Israeli Arabs are Muslims.

"I blame Europe for standing silent towards killing and slaughter on their soil," Ibrahim Nimer Hussein, mayor of Shafa Amr and president of a committee of all Arab mayors in Israel, told Reuters.

"How could they attack Iraq because it occupied Kuwait, yet stand silent when people are

being slaughtered in Europe?" The demonstrators chanted: "U.N. when will you rise up."

The United States, Britain and France were reported to have agreed on Monday on a draft U.N. resolution to use force if necessary to get food and medicine through battle lines to Bosnian civilians. The Security Council is expected to vote on the proposal this week.

Israeli Arabs have said they are willing to give shelter to hundreds of orphaned Bosnian children and announced plans to collect food and medicine to donate to the war-torn former Yugoslav republic.

"We are contacting organisations abroad about bringing in children here to rescue them," said Kufir Barra Mayor Kamal Rayyan.

Death sentence sought for 19 in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — A military prosecutor in Tunisia has demanded the death penalty for 19 alleged Muslim fundamentalists standing trial on charges of plotting to overthrow the government.

The 19 — 10 of whom are being tried in absentia — include the main leaders of the banned Al Nahdha (Renaissance) movement, Sadek Choucri, Rashed Ghannouchi and Habib Elouaz. Mr. Ghannouchi is among those being tried in absentia.

Six of them are charged with plotting to assassinate President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali — Hedi Chahli, Samir Ben Tili, Bouraoui Makhlouf, Mohamed Ferjani, and two former army officers, Abdul Hamid Adayis and Ridha Tounsi.

They are accused of planning either a Stinger missile attack on Mr. Ben Ali's plane, a suicide squad attack on his palace in Carthage, or to bomb his car.

The prosecutor requested maximum jail terms for the remaining defendants among a batch of 171 standing trial before the court.

More than 20 army officers are among the defendants but the military prosecutor played down the role of most of them, saying they had met just once to discuss "the general situation in the country." He did not request the death penalty for any of them.

A total of 279 defendants are charged with either plotting to overthrow Mr. Ben Ali or to overthrow his government as part of a plan to turn Tunisia into an

Islamic state. The prosecution is expected to request sentences for a second batch of 108 defendants on Aug. 17.

Most defendants have rejected the charges against them.

Military prosecutor Captain Bahrik Ferjani told court the Al Nahdha movement... a "hellish plan and started to implement it" when it realised there was no place for it in national politics.

"You should take energetic sanctions against this terrorism without considering any excuse... it would serve as an example for those who would think to follow this way," he told the court of four army officers chaired by a civilian magistrate.

Defence lawyer Mohammed Chakroun, a former head of the Tunisian Bar Association, said the trial was political and would not have occurred if constitutional provisions on freedom of association were respected as Al Nahdha would have been legalised.

He listed several irregularities in the trial including coerced confessions, prolonged incommunicado detention, lack of access to court papers for defence lawyers, and the division of the case into two trials when it involved a single alleged plot.

Defence lawyers said they had expected the death penalty to be requested for more of the defendants. The defendants reacted calmly to the prosecutor's request for 19 death penalties.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel gives diplomatic status to EC in W. Bank

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet on Monday granted diplomatic status to the European Community's (EC) representative to the occupied territories. The representative, responsible for overseeing Europe's technical, humanitarian and economic aid to Palestinians in the occupied territories, will continue to be based in Brussels, Belgium, a foreign ministry official said. The only change will be in his personal status under which he will now have immunity, the official said, on condition of anonymity. Under the former Likud government the EC representative was Brussels-based and did not have diplomatic status. But Mr. Rabin's cabinet on Monday granted the EC representative diplomatic status, a cabinet statement said. The EC spokesman could not be immediately reached for comment on the cabinet decision. Europe hosts the regional Arab-Israeli peace talks on weapons and economic issues and has said it expects Mr. Rabin to inject new impetus into the negotiations.

Iran gets new culture minister

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's parliament on Tuesday approved the appointment of a new Islamic culture and guidance minister to replace Mohammad Khatami, whose liberal policies earned the wrath of conservative clergy. The Majlis endorsed Ali Larjani with 207 votes for, eight against and nine abstentions. President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani nominated Mr. Larjani, a 33-year-old with degrees in philosophy and mathematics, on July 18 after Mr. Khatami's resignation. Mr. Khatami, a cleric, angered cultural purists who said he should impose tighter control on books and film-making and questioned his intelligence. Mr. Larjani, who will also be in charge of tourism and oversee the work of the foreign media in Iran, might turn the clock back. Mr. Rafsanjani described Mr. Larjani, who comes from a prominent clerical family and once served as an adviser to the Revolutionary Guards, as competent. "This (the vote of confidence) will be the first trial of cooperation between the government and the Majlis," Mr. Rafsanjani told deputies. The new house started work on May 28. "Your positive votes will make our people happy, showing that the Majlis and government are solving the country's problems harmoniously and hand-in-hand," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Last Kuwaiti Airbus returned

ABU DHABI (R) — The last of six commercial aircraft taken from Kuwait by Iraq during the Gulf war has been returned, a Kuwait Airways spokesman said on Tuesday. A Kuwait Airways pilot landed the Airbus A300 at Abu Dhabi international airport on Monday after flying it from Mashhad in northeast Iran, the spokesman said. Iraq took the five Airbus A310s and an A300, worth \$200 million, when it invaded Kuwait two years ago. It flew them with its own aircraft to safety in Iran when the U.S.-led alliance attacked to drive its forces from Kuwait in January 1991. Iraqi markings were covered with green paint but still visible when the A300 landed, the spokesman said. It was undergoing routine checks before being flown to Paris for maintenance and returned to service. "We have received all six of them now," the spokesman said. Iran turned the six airliners over to Kuwait pilots and technicians in Mashhad late last month.

Investigator quits Cyprus probe panel

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot government lawyer resigned in protest as head of an official probe of police brutality on Monday after the interior minister cast doubt on the accusation he was investigating. Akis Pappasavvas, who serves in the State Legal Service, said evidence suggested the complaint, by a man arrested in a bank robbery case and later released, was well founded. Interior Minister Christodoulos Veniamin said in a weekend press interview he doubted the man's story that he was brutally beaten by five hooded men in the presence of two high-ranking police officers. "You don't expect police during interrogation to treat suspects as if they are guests," Mr. Veniamin said. "They don't use the word please with them." Mr. Pappasavvas said in a letter of resignation that the minister's statement "could directly or indirectly affect the whole structure" of the investigation. He also complained that two other members of the complaints council — a police officer and an interior ministry official — had tried to bar reporters from hearings and had not approached the investigation scientifically.

U.S.-born Israeli judge dies

TEL AVIV (AP) — Simon Agranat, an American-born Israeli who headed the supreme court and forced generals to quit over their unpreparedness for the 1973 Middle East war, has died at 86. Mr. Agranat was one of the youngest supreme court justices in the world when appointed to the Israeli bench at 42 shortly after the creation of the Jewish state in 1948. He was named court president in 1965 and served in that post until his retirement in 1977. He then taught at Jerusalem's Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University. Israeli media said Mr. Agranat died after a lengthy illness Monday. No cause of death was given. Mr. Agranat immigrated to Palestine in the 1920s, but returned to the United States to study law. He returned after graduation from the University of Chicago in 1929.

Eight killed in house collapse in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Eight people, including three children, were crushed to death when a five-storey building collapsed in Egypt's Nile town of Mehalla Al Kubra, an Egyptian newspaper said on Tuesday.

Sudanese march in support of fellow Muslims

KHARTOUM (AP) — Tens of thousands of Sudanese marched Tuesday in support of fellow Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and North Africa and warned Tunisia's president that he will be killed for his treatment of extremists. The protest was organised by the Islamic and Arab popular conference, headed by Hassan Turabi who is believed to be the main power behind the military government of Omar Hassan Al Bashir. The outfit was founded to coordinate the activities of radical Muslim groups. The demonstrators denounced the killing of Bosnian Muslims by Christian Serbs in the former republic of Yugoslavia and the treatment of Muslim extremists in Tunisia and Algeria.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Le Monde est a vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Documentary
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:10 Man of the People
22:00 News in English
22:20 In A Child's Name

PRAYER TIMES

06:21 Fajr
12:53 (Sunrise) Duha
12:52 Dhuhr
16:22 'Asr
19:29 Maghreb
20:54 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Roman Catholic Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541

Anglican Church Tel. 60851. Tel. 62543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 676991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be hot and windy will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 21/37
Aqaba 26/41
Deserts 20/38
Jordan Valley 25/40

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Muthana Haba 819222
Dr. Yabn Abdel Rabeen 736072
Dr. Saman Oudouni 646024
Dr. Tawfik Qab'it 632029
First pharmacy 661912
Pardons pharmacy 773236
Al Adana pharmacy 637025
Nabulsi pharmacy 632072
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shucicani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Za'bi (-)
Al Shamsi pharmacy (773825)

ZARQA:
Dr. Zaid Ju'cin (-)
Khalil pharmacy 96417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630541
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rousseau Police 792, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 773211
Highway Police 843462
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630920
Hotel Complaints 625800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680180
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 636361
RJ Flight Information 08-52380

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 818313/22
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 64281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 624112
Jabal Amman Maternity 64262
Madina, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmashani 641714
Shamashani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845846
Al-Mushtaq Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdal 6612737
Al-Ahli, Abdal 661646
Indian, Al-Mashayeen 77701/3
Al-Basir, J. Adrafreen 7551126
Army, Mariz 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 6224050
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)863323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)805620
Rm Sina Hospital (09)86732
Al-Haram Medical Hospital (09)79990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)75555

Queen Alia Int. Airport: 08-52300

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)77275

Al-Hafes Hospital (02)77100

Al-Hafes Hospital (02)77100

Princess Haya Hospital (03)31411

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)52300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Adza (RJ)
06:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:00 Jeddah (RJ)
06:00 London (RJ)
06:00 New Delhi (RJ)
06:00 Rome (RJ)
06:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:00 London (RJ)
06:00 Cairo (RJ)

17:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00 Istanbul (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

Secretary criticises Arab reaction to Gulf crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — Editorial secretary of the Al-Ahram Egyptian Daily Abdul Ati Mohammad Abdul Halim said Tuesday the Arab order failed to manage the recent Gulf crisis. He attributed the failure to Arab divisions that prevented Arabs from handling the crisis responsibly, thus giving foreign powers the excuse to pull the carpet out from under them.

In a lecture entitled "The Arab Mind and the Gulf Crisis," at Abdul Hamid Shouman's Scientific Centre, Mr. Abdul Halim said that foreign intervention in Arab affairs usually takes place when foreign powers feel the Arab Renaissance Project is about to see light.

The Gulf crisis came amid major international changes and developments linked with the creation of a new world order led by the United States. Mr. Abdul Halim said the Arab mind has dealt with Gulf war from five major areas: intellectual polarisation, attributing all Arab problems to the Gulf crisis, the deterioration of the present Arab order, the conflict of Arab interests and the differences over the role of foreign powers in the conflict.

He said that the major Egyptian dailies Al-Ahram, Al-Akhar and Al-Jumhuriyya completely ignored second anniversary of the Gulf war in their editorials said that coverage of the crisis was different.

He noted that the difference between politicians is acceptable and reasonable, but differences between academics about this crisis seems strange.

Mr. Abdul Halim called for an inter-Arab movement, based on three major reasons: the appearance of the United States as the only superpower, the creation of greater Europe, and nationalism.

Any step in this direction should start with an end to accusations among Arab intellectuals, he said.

U.S. move seen as free bonus

(Continued from page 1)

dates the role of the U.S. as a peace broker," Palestinian spokesman Hanan Ashrawi told reporters in occupied Jerusalem.

Dr. Ashrawi said in a cautious statement she would not object to the aid if Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin halted all Jewish settlement in the occupied lands.

Mr. Bush said Tuesday that he and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reached "agreement on the basic principles to govern the granting of up to \$10 billion in loan guarantees." Mr. Bush said he would recommend to Congress to authorise the guarantees and urged other nations to take similar steps.

Mr. Bush did not say what these "principles" are. However, in the past he blocked the guarantees because of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's accelerated settlement drive.

"We cannot say that we are pleased or displeased," Dr. Ashrawi said. "We want to see the details and small print before we express our position." At the same time, our leadership in Tunis, the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation), is also studying these statements. We are awaiting their response."

In a statement issued in Tunis later, the PLO did not denounce the granting of the guarantees, but urged the Americans not to favour Israel over the Palestinians.

"It is basic that the United States prove to the Arab Nation and the Palestinian people that the same standard is used in dealing with the Middle East," PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif said.

He urged Congress to go slow in considering the guarantees.

Dr. Ashrawi, meanwhile, warned that if settlement building continued now, it would harm Washington's credibility.

"If the loan guarantees are given while settlement activities are continuing, then this of course invalidates the role of the United States as an impartial peace broker," she said.

"If settlement activities are stopped entirely, there is no problem with that (the guarantees)," she said.

The Rabin government has stopped plans for more than 5,000 units in the occupied territories, but said it would complete some 10,000 homes started by the Shamir government.

Dr. Ashrawi said Palestinians watched with some concern the "new bonnyman" between Israel and the United States.

"We just hope that the peace process will continue and will be treated impartially and mending fences between Israel and the United States will not be at the cost of the peace process," she said.

First exhibit of Jordanian spare parts opens in Amman

By Ziyad Al-Shalleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first specialised exhibit of Jordanian-made machinery spare parts opened at the Amman Chamber of Industry Tuesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in the course of the Kingdom's celebration of the 40th anniversary of King Hussein's accession to the throne.

The week-long exhibit displays a range of spare parts once imported but now manufactured by Jordanian industry. Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour, deputising for Prince Hassan, opened the exhibit inspecting various items on display in six separate wings.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade with the Amman Chamber of Industry and major industrial spare parts producing firms organised the fair aims at encouraging Jordanian firms to buy locally made spares instead of imports, which helps to create jobs.

Samir Umeish from the Ministry of Industry and Trade said the exhibit could open the door for Jordanian craftsmen, engineers and technicians to manufacture spare parts for such large companies as of the phosphate, potash and fertiliser companies.

Major consumers of spare parts have already expressed a readiness to give industrial companies a tour of their plants to acquaint them with their spare parts needs.

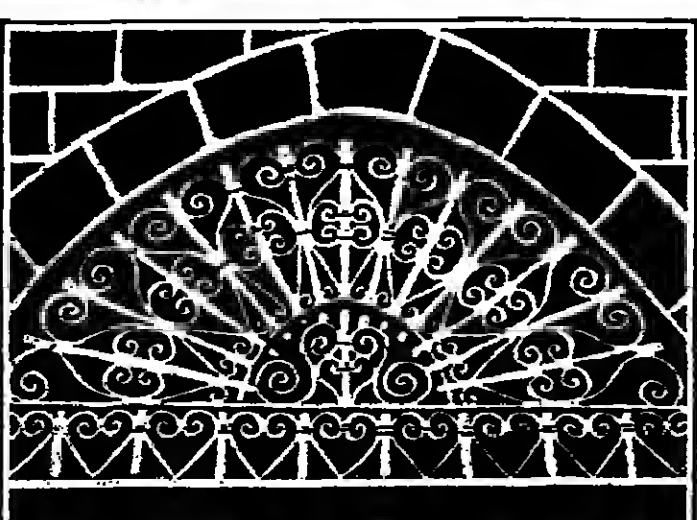
Some of the major firms, according to Dr. Umeish have said they will finance the creation of industries to make spare parts to be set up in regions close to consumer firms. Dr. Ensour stressed the importance of Jordan to become self sufficient in spare parts in order to curtail imports and save hard currency for economic development.

The Jordan Cement Factories Company established in 1951, is also sponsoring the exhibit, along with the Jordan Phosphate Mines company, established in 1952, the Arab Potash Company, established in 1956, the Jordan Petroleum Refinery company set up in 1958, and the Jordan Glass Company, established in 1974. The White Cement Factory, established in 1978, is also sponsoring the display.

All these companies, according to Dr. Umeish can rely on Jordanian-made spare parts for their machinery.

Chamber of Industry President Khalid Abu Hassan said that his office will do its utmost power to help produce spare parts to curtail the JD 50 million spent on imports.

Mr. Abu Hassan added that encouragement from the public and private sectors can lead to more investments in Jordanian industries. He urged various businessmen and investors to embark on this vital project for the national economy.



Third Fuheiss Festival Opens Thursday

FUHEISS (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, the Fuheiss third festival, entitled "Jordan: a history and a culture" will be held Thursday Aug. 13. The six-day event includes folklore exhibitions depicting Jordanian life past and present. It also includes artistic performances by local troupes from Fuheiss, Maan, Tafilah and Yarmouk University. Poetry readings by a number of Jordanian poets will also be in the programme. Artists plates by the Jordanian plastic artists Mohammad Al Jalous and Riham Al Haseib will also be displayed. The event includes a cultural symposium entitled "Ghaib Halsea: The writer, the man and the thinker." Taking part in the symposium will be three Jordanian writers.

Expert says returnees burden economy and environment

RAMTHA (J.T.) — The return of tens of thousands of expatriates from the Gulf has increased the population by nearly 10 per cent, causing an imbalance in demographics and a shortage of basic services, according to Tayseer Khidewi, head of the engineering department at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST).

Dr. Khidewi said that the population increase threatened the environment and pressured the economy.

Most important is the increasing demand for a decreasing supply of water. The demand is driving the Kingdom to build more dams to collect rain water. Dr. Khidewi said during a recent seminar on water resources and the environment at JUST.

Jordan is also being forced to double its efforts to provide basic services and meet the Kingdom's socio-economic development requirements, Dr. Khidewi added.

Fear of environmental pollution has led Jordanian and other leaders to launch environmental protection campaigns on water and air pollution, to name a few, through the media and seminars.

Dr. Khidewi said. He said that most of the rain water in Jordan evaporates in dams or lost underground.

The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) said in a recent report that 85 per cent of the rain fall evaporates, 10 per cent becomes surface water and five per cent ends up in underground reservoirs.

While underground water is mainly used for drinking, according to the report, surface water is for farming and industry. In a recent statement to the Jordan Times, WAJ Director General Mutazz Al Bilbeisi said that Jordan receives an average 8.4 million cubic metres of rainfall annually, most of it ranging from 50 mm at the desert's edge to 600 mm in the high lands.

He said that Jordan's people are expected to double by the year 2010 and that traditional water resources will not be met the country's needs. He said that the depletion of non renewable underground resources and population growth will force Jordan to look for non-traditional water sources by the end of this century.

1991 exports hit JD 770.7 million

AMMAN (Petra) — A Statistics Department Report published Tuesday shows that 1991 exports amounted JD770.7 million in value. Exports were mainly fertilisers, amounting to JD183 million, followed by JD150 million of cement.

According to the report, India topped the list of countries importing Jordanian products in 1991. India imported products worth JD109 million fol-

lowed by Iraq at JD56 million, Iran at JD30 million and the United Arab Emirates at JD26 million.

The report noted that Jordan imported JD187 million worth of crude oil from Iraq and other products such as fuel oil from the United States worth JD178 million and other products from Germany worth JD132 million and Britain worth JD77 million.

Post Ministry delivers reforms that stamp out bureaucracy

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Post and Communications has announced a procedural and administrative reform package that ministry officials say will uplift postal services in the Kingdom.

The new reforms would improve the letter delivery system, introduce zip codes, eliminate some post office bureaucratic procedures and extend working hours.

Undersecretary of the ministry, Dr. Abdullah Al Jazi, concedes that the reforms will not stamp out all the postal system's shortcomings. But, he says, the ministry is "doing the best it can" given its limitations and budget constraints.

"We don't have the quality of service that the West has, but we don't have the West's resources either," Dr. Jazi told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Recent press reports have criticised the ministry of Post and Communications for operating an inefficient system plagued with red tape, pointing to citizen complaints about mail handling delays, post office unaccessibility and inflated fees for unsatisfactory service.

Dr. Jazi brushed away these allegations saying that the postal

service in Jordan has received "excellent" evaluations from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) which conducts secret tests of postal services in member countries.

He said his understaffed, underbudgeted ministry has provided sufficient service to a market expanding at an extremely high rate.

The demand for postal services in Jordan is growing at an annual rate of 3 per cent while the average international growth rate is 1.3 per cent.

The delay in mail delivery, said Dr. Jazi, is caused by spending cuts that are part of an overall government policy.

This year the Ministry of Post and Communications had to slash its fuel consumption by 25 per cent and run fewer trips between cities, causing a delay in service, he said.

Dr. Jazi said the ministry is still processing letters manually and has failed to secure funds to build a planned automated central post office in Amman. The cost of the new project is estimated at JD10 million while the ministry's annual government allocation is JD5.5 million.

Shortages in manpower and the unavailability of street numbers in Amman are the main reason letters are not delivered to home addresses in the country, said Dr. Jazi.

"It is the duty of Amman



Abdullah Al Jazi

Municipality to number the streets so that postmen know where letters are addressed," he said.

Dr. Jazi rejected complaints that postal fees are inflated pointing out that postal services in Jordan are heavily subsidised by the government.

"We do not run a profit-seeking operation," he said.

He added that Amman is the only part of the market where the ministry makes a profit, adding that many post offices in remote areas of the country are run at a loss.

However, he said, commercially unviable post offices are maintained as part of a government policy to provide social services to its citizens.

"When we open a post office in a small village we provide a social service and employ people," he said.

On the road again

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two adventurous women who have so far driven 14,323 kilometres through northern Cyprus, Turkey and Syria have arrived in Jordan on a journey that will take them to Egypt, Eastern Europe and Scandinavia.

Barbara Key, 34, a graphic artist from Australia and Rachael Pettus, 28, a scuba diving instructor from the U.S. set out on their journey April 25 from Crete, Greece. Their goal — more involvement with people from different cultures and see how the rest of the world functions.

The travelling and sight-seeing are of course time-consuming, yet an interesting and fulfilling experience for both. But it is not all fun and for the two who cook and camp in their van along the way and above all do all the repair and maintenance work on the car.

"Boredom with a static life "and" wanting to see what was out there" made Ms. Key and Ms. Pettus undertake their long journey which will last "as long as it takes to arrive," they say.

In an interview with the Jordan Times both talked about their experience in the countries they have so far visited and their future plans.

"I wanted to learn more about the world and my place in it," says Ms. Key. "The attitude of people in different countries is very welcoming and comparing experiences we have had is very interesting." Her partner Ms. Pettus adds: "I've always known that the American way wasn't always the best or only way. I know that Americans have become unwelcome in the Middle East but since visiting these parts I lost my worry that people don't like the American government. They don't have anything against the people. People are the same everywhere."

The two have travelled through Istanbul, Tokat, Mardin, Van, Nicosia, Aleppo, Hamah, the northeastern part of Syria and Damascus. They vividly remember some sites and experiences in each country such as, the Turkish baths in Turkey, the archaic weighing systems in northern Cyprus, and the decorated huses in Syria "which are so different from those in Western countries." The most spectacular sight was that of Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey.

The most time-consuming problem, was looking for new tires in Syria where they spent several days, later returning to Turkey to get them. "Whenever we have a problem something

good comes out. We've met some nice people along the way," they say. "The hardest thing is that there's no going home. You have to keep going," Ms. Pettus said.

Although it's rough sometimes both seem determined to keep going, and they still have a long way to go. After this journey Ms. Pettus says she would like to travel throughout the U.S.

"I would like to get to know more about my country. I might do that on horseback or by motorcycle. I'd like to get to know more about the people who make up America," she says. Ms. Key adds: "I've always been drawn to Europe, and there are a lot of places I'd like to see."

Ms. Pettus says she would like to make travelling a self-sustaining occupation, while Ms. Key would like to improve her skills as a photographer.

The two will be staying in Jordan for the coming two weeks. They have already had a complete maintenance for the car, and have camped out near Qasr Amra. They have been to Azraq, Jerash, Ajloun and Dhibeen National Park. They will be visiting the royal stables before travelling south on the king's Highway on route to the Nabatean city of Petra, Wadi Rum and Aqaba.



Rachael Pettus and Barbara Key relax over a cup of coffee before their next adventure — this time in Jordan

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

Exhibitions

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Exploring Science" at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of small paintings by Mohammad Samara at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Photography exhibition by Sibam Al Mufti at the Phoenix Art and Culture Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of photos of the Hashemite family since the start of the Great Arab Revolt and the establishment of the Trans-Jordan Emirate as well as photos depicting the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces at Muta University.
- ★ Exhibition of children's books, stationery and handicrafts at the Greek Catholic Church in northern Marka.

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The Applied Science University (ASU) announces the start of training programmes for THE CHARTERED FINANCIAL ANALYST (CFA). The University had obtained the approval of the CHARTERED FINANCIAL ANALYST (ICFA) to administer the three levels examination at the ASU in Amman.

The training programmes for the three levels will start in the first week of this coming September, 1992. The cost of each programme is (JD 1500) including required reading materials.

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HOUSEMAID MISSING



Miss VIRGIE B. BAREN, Filipino housemaid, left her employer's residence at noon, Saturday 4/8/92 and has not returned since.

Anybody who saw her or knows anything about her, kindly contact tel. 810596 or 825596 or the nearest police station. Any person withholding information about her will be prosecuted.

EMBASSY OF INDIA AMMAN

INDEPENDENCE DAY

To mark the 45th anniversary of the Independence Day of India, a flag hoisting ceremony will be held on Saturday, August 15, 1992, at 10 a.m. at the Embassy of India, 1st Circle, Jabal Amman.

All Indians and their families are cordially invited to attend the ceremony.

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
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After guarantees, what?

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin will return to a hero's welcome after he secured President George Bush's approval of "up to" \$10 billion in U.S. loan guarantees to settle Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union. President Bush and his administration, on the other hand, might win some Jewish votes and support in his race with Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton. But what is in this latest political development between the U.S. and Israel for Palestinians and Arabs?

When in the fall of 1991 the Bush administration broke negotiations with the Likud government over the Israeli request for the loans it did so in order to force then Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to change his settlement policies in the occupied Arab territories or else to force a change of government in the Jewish state. As expected Shamir defied the U.S. and the Israeli electorate got the message and opted to replace the right-wing premier with the more flexible Labour administration.

Before taking power Rabin's promises on the issue of building more Jewish settlements were fuzzy yet encouraging. After Labour's win, and when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited the region in July, the Israeli government announced a "freeze" on building new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. That freeze, however, did not include nearly 10,000 housing units which have been under construction. When finished these units would accommodate around 40,000 settlers in addition to 130,000 already living in the occupied territories. That increase in the Jewish population of the West Bank and Gaza would make a settlement of the conflict all the more difficult, if not outright impossible. The facts of life that Israel has been trying to create on the ground in the occupied territories, coupled with the restoration of warmth to the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, is real cause for worry for all Palestinians and Arabs.

What is to be done? During Secretary Baker's tour, the Bush administration specifically asked the Arabs to do more to push the peace process forward and in the meanwhile to indirectly give an impetus to President Bush's reelection campaign. No matter what points President Bush will win as a result of his granting Israel the requested loans, the real test of his Middle East policy will start in Washington on Aug. 24. For unless his peace bid for this region bears fruit by early October, Baker's attempts to boost his president's chances of being reelected will fail, at least on that score.

With this in mind, the Arab and Palestinian negotiators should not hesitate to use any weakness in the Bush administration's programme to save the situation for the Arab World. What they should understand is that U.S. commitment to peace will not necessarily diminish by the election of a new president in the U.S. The Arabs should also remember that while peace is crucial for the peoples of the region it is crucial for the Americans and their interests too. So, if President Bush wants the Arab world to contribute, he and his strategic allies in Israel should share the cost.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIAN DAILIES Tuesday came out with editorials discussing Jordan's achievements under King Hussein over the past four decades of his rule paying tribute to his endeavours to serve his people and the Arab Nation. Al Ra'i daily said that the past four decades are a source of pride for the Jordanian people in view of the numerous accomplishments that have been realised in the Kingdom thanks to the relentless efforts of its leader. The daily said that Jordanian citizens look back with deep appreciation and pride at all the accomplishments of these years, and can only give credit to their leader for the progress and development in the various social — economic and other sectors. The paper paid tribute in particular to the King's endeavours to enhance the process of democracy in the country at a time when, it said, Jordan is an oasis of stability in the midst of a turbulent world, seeking more progress on the domestic level and a comprehensive peace in the region. The paper recalled that Jordan has always served as a haven for the refugees and the displaced people and has always sought to come to the aid of the Arab people, with all the meagre means at its disposal.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily commented on the findings of a team sent to Iraq by the American Harvard University, which is a renowned educational institution, and whose reports are always creditable. Fahd al Farah said that the Harvard team had examined the general health situation in Iraq and found that 91,000 children had died as a direct result of the sanctions imposed on their country; it also found that the killing of children is continuing due to the embargo. The 91,000 children are not officers in the Republican Guards nor are they members of the ruling Baath Party and certainly they have no say in politics, said the writer. He said that the murderer of these innocent children is the embargo and those behind it and those who are intent on starving the 18 million citizens of Iraq. It is futile to discuss who came out victorious in the Gulf war because the U.S. had fought with weapons it had prepared for a third world war while the Iraqis fought with weapons used in the World War I, said the writer. He said that regardless of the battles and the war, the ongoing embargo is the most heinous crime being committed against an innocent people and is being maintained to help the American president get elected for another term in office. He said that the killing of 91,000 children in Iraq, as proved by the Harvard team, can only be a stigma in America's history and can by no means help Mr. Bush in his drive to sit in the White House again.

Children hurt most by upheavals in Europe

By Jerome Koechlin

GENEVA — In Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and Bogota, the plight of street children is all too familiar. The sad tale of these youngsters led to fend for themselves as young as 4 or 5 has been told worldwide. Now Europe is producing its own generation of street kids. In the former communist nations of eastern and Central Europe, hundreds of thousands of children are sleeping rough, under bridges, in the subways, and feeding from garbage bins.

Born into a system where the state looked after people from the cradle to the grave and where family unity was undermined, children of the former communist regimes are paying the heaviest price for the sweeping changes made in their countries. They are the most vulnerable sector of society, and as unemployment and inflation soar, youngsters are finding themselves out on the street, stealing to survive and old beyond their years.

The social earthquake that has shaken this part of Europe has swept away traditional values along with the rotten structures, say experts. When the two Germanies joined together after more than 40 years of division, scores of East German families left their offspring behind in their rush to start a fresh life in the West.

For the abandoned youngsters, stealing is the only answer, and many of them have regrouped into Oliver Twist-style gangs. German police revealed recently that a single group of adolescents operating in Berlin have stolen 400 cars in the space of just a few weeks. In Romania, Bucharest's squalid railroad station has become home to hundreds of children, who go out begging to between bouts of glue-sniffing. They sleep in makeshift beds made out of cardboard boxes. These children are doubly isolated because most of them are gypsies.

In Budapest, many of the street kids are well organised, working in gangs to shoplift, pick pockets and steal cars. According to the Hungarian authorities, around 3,000 children live this in the capital. "The biggest threat is from adult criminal organisations which send children out into the streets," said Gabor Racz, director-general of the Hungarian government's Office for the Coordination of Young People.

Alarmed by the numbers of young children taking to crime, the Roman Catholic Church has set up a network of "street counsellors" in the poorest neighbourhoods of Budapest. Other organisations have also launched efforts to help the youngsters. But the odds are against them. According to various estimates, between 25 and 40 per cent of Hungarians are currently living below the poverty-line.

In Poland, the church and other charity organisations are also working around the clock to lessen the impact of poverty on the country's young. But in Albania, no such help is at hand. Here, the situation is desperate as the country wrestles with virtual anarchy. With even the most basic foodstuffs in critically short supply and poverty more acute than in any other European country, children have lost their most basic rights — a home, food and education.

The Albanian Ministry of Education estimates that at least 10,000 children no longer attend school. In many cases, that is because the buildings themselves are no longer available. Schoolhouses have been plundered, mostly by adults, for anything that might sell or that might serve as firewood in the absence of any heating — desks, chairs, blackboards, even portraits of Lenin and former Albanian leader Enver Hoxa. According to Edgar Koh, a UNICEF official who has worked in Albania, around 750 schoolhouses have been torn down in recent months. Many of them by the former owners of the land, anxious to reclaim property that had been commandeered under the communist regime.

In the republics of the former Soviet Union, juvenile street crime is also a growing and worrying phenomenon. Newspapers report daily instances of robberies carried out by gangs of armed youths, often aged between 14 and 15 years. The reason for the rise is the same as elsewhere, say psychologists and sociologists — poverty, the break-up of close family units and the uncertainty caused by a world which has changed beyond recognition. Alcoholism and drug addiction are soaring among the teenage population. And the health service is on its knees. In 1990, 312 cases of polio, a disease now eradicated in all but the poorest parts of the globe, were reported in the former Soviet republics. Cases of typhoid and hepatitis are also reported to be on the rise.

But who are Europe's street kids? Where do they live and how do they survive? Most of them live in the big cities, say charity officials. They are the first victims of the mass exodus from the countryside to the towns that has taken place in many parts of the ex-communist bloc. Their age range varies from 18 down to a few years. Child care workers

draw a distinction between youngsters who still maintain some links with their families, and those who have broken all ties with the adult world. The latter group live in a microcosm of their own. "Street children are even more abandoned than Christ was. At least He had parents and his mother was with him even at the foot of the cross,"

said Stefan Vanistendael, joint secretary-general of the International Catholic Children's Bureau (ICCB) in Geneva. "The immediate cause of this phenomenon is almost always a break-up of the family, generally linked to raging poverty... As long as a family remains united, children will be kept off the streets. The most extraordinary

thing is (these street kids') capacity to survive.

In order to get by, street children frequently resort to prostitution and drug-smuggling. Almost any criminal activity will be tried if it can afford the means of survival for a few more days or weeks. The result is a growing conflict between the youngsters and the adult world that has abandoned them. "The phenomenon in Eastern Europe has not yet reached the level of that in Brazil or Colombia," said Nigel Cantwell, programme director at international children's Defence, Geneva-based organisation set up to protect youngsters around the globe. "I have yet to hear of death squads operating in the streets of Romania or Hungary," said Cantwell, referring to the execution squads that kill hundreds of South American street children each year. "But having said that, this phenomenon (in Eastern Europe) has taken everyone by surprise — there are no trained staff, no specialists, no adequate structures... In countries where political instability is acute, I fear the price they will pay will be the sacrifice of the younger generation."

In Western Europe, support groups and voluntary organisations have launched projects to try to alleviate the plight of the youngsters of Eastern Europe. The U.N. children's organisation (UNICEF) has set up a special committee to coordinate that various efforts and the U.N. has put pressure on the new European

democracies to become signatories of the international children's charter, adopted by the U.N. general assembly in September 1990.

To date, all the nations of Eastern and Central Europe have signed, with the exception of Latvia. The charter obliges the 112 member states to protect all children under the age of 18, without discrimination against race or religion, against all forms of cruelty and exploitation. It also commits them to ensuring the best possible treatment for the most vulnerable youngsters, especially those who have no family, whatever the reason might be.

Sometimes referred to as the children's Magna Carta, the U.N. convention is considered important as a legal instrument and for the pressure it can bring to bear, rather than as an end in itself. Said Paolo De Santis, of International Children's Defence: "One of the roles of a non-government organisation like ours is to bring pressure on and help governments form new laws, define their policies and create structures that will enable them to achieve the aims of the convention and protect minors... The fall of communism has rendered many laws null and void and created a need for new legislation. It's now a question of filling that legal void." It was mainly due to the work of this Geneva organisation that Romania last July voted a law restricting adoption of that country's thousands of abandoned babies. The aim of the Romanian campaign was to protect youngsters against exploitation by organisations selling children to childless couples in the West.

Romania is by no means the only European country where baby-trafficking is rife, say child experts. In the Ukrainian town of Dnipropetrovsk police recently uncovered a ring centred around a nurse who told young mothers, that their children had been still-born. Instead, the infants were sold to new parents.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel said recently he believed the answer to the problem of Eastern Europe's young lay in a "new awareness on the part of the parents." A BICE's head-quarters in Geneva's Secretary-General Francois Ruegg says he too believes the solution must come at the grassroots level, initially with the help of outside agencies. "If there is to be any durable development we must train the local people," he said.

One major obstacle is the lack of any tradition in the former communist bloc of support groups or solidarity among families living in the same neighbourhood. According to Ruegg, one of the main challenges will be to "recreate solidarity in the neighbourhoods and encourage mutual understanding between people of different religions. Training is the key to our programmes and the main hope for these societies. But it is very difficult, because the Romanian, Bulgarian and Albanian societies are far less close-knit than those of Central Europe. They are going to have a much tougher time than the others" — World News Link.



Old beyond their years, abandoned children in Eastern Europe roam the streets, trying almost anything to survive (World News Link photo)

This one Germany still thinks with two minds

By Marc Fisher

BERLIN — The blighted landscape that was East Germany is no more. Less than two years after reunification, money — huge piles of it from Western Germany's government and industry — has changed lives and bought East Germans colourful surroundings, mobility, opportunity and more choice than they know what to do with.

So why do so many East Germans say they cannot remember a more miserable time? Of course, part of the answer is that a great many are jobless and even more feel displaced. But something else is happening.

In Bonn, I asked one of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top aides if he was worried that radical right parties, after making gains in regional elections, might find strong support in Eastern Germany, where so many young people are out of work and searching for some way to express their anger and frustration.

"Of course not," he said. "Over there, they're only one-fifth of the people. When it comes to elections, honestly, no matter what they do, they don't count."

Another day, I had lunch with a government official and a television executive — Bavarians proud of Bonn's effort to unite Germany. Both consider themselves Europeans, at home equally in Bonn, Paris or Milan. Neither has hired any East Germans since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Neither has met an East German for more than a few minutes' conversation. Two and a half years after the opening of the wall, neither has set foot in Eastern Germany.

In Berlin, new street signs are going up on every corner to the old Eastern sector, even where names do not need changing from the likes of Leninallee, Ho Chi Minh Allee and Julius and Ethel Rosenberg Strasse. The message is clear and painful: Nothing —

not even street signs — must remain of the old system.

Yet certain things do remain. Some weeks ago I spent a day in Oranienburg north of Berlin, with Ekkehard and Elke Hotz and their three children. They were among the thousands of East Germans so desperate to escape communism that they had abandoned everything they had in Oranienburg — home, possessions, jobs: family — and in October 1989 took a train south to Czechoslovakia. Less than two years later, after four successive business failures, the Hotzes are back in Oranienburg — with nothing to show from their encounter with the market economy except bitterness and frustration.

But they have not come back to nothing. In some ways, Oranienburg is a changed place, with buildings under renovation and new shops on the main street. But what makes the Hotzes feel that Oranienburg is truly home is what has not changed — the openness, the warmth, the things Easterners talk about when among themselves. Communism was not the only difference between East and West — and Easterners want to hold onto those non-political differences.

An aura of sadness remains in the old German Democratic Republic, a childlike openness being slowly eroded by reality. The cocoon of communism has far greater lasting power than anyone had imagined, leaving behind a nation of adults who bear their wounds like children, a place that has curiously little of the pride and sense of adventure that Czechs and Poles exhibit these days.

Chancellor Kohl this spring finally conceded that the country had failed to see the psychological and social gulf between East and West. Listen to Germans describe that gulf.

An East Berlin social worker talks about her boyfriend from

Munich: "We read different children's books, have different movie heroes. As children, we almost never had the same experiences. We never sang."

A Western man talks about Eastern women he has dated: "They live more intensely, show more feeling. They've learned to make much from little."

Dazzling change — especially when compared with the creeping pace of physical change elsewhere in the old East Bloc — is everywhere: Autobahn construction, new storefronts, better products, brighter looking landscape, vibrant press, a bewildering selection of books, from serious works once suppressed to erotic trash inconceivable under the old regime.

The Bonn government oddly has made little effort to publicise all this, to give East Germans an overview, to show them that despite individual hardships much has happened already. Left to their doubts and depression, many Easterners feel betrayed and lost. Not that they would roll back the clock — good riddance to the communists. But, they ask, why must everything go? Was there nothing good here?

I went to see former Chancellor Willy Brandt recently and found him surprisingly sanguine. West Germans in their 20s and 30s, he said, identify far more with Italy, France and Spain than with East Germany. But he believes that economic progress will smooth over the social and psychological differences. There is, he says, no doubt that in 10 or 12 years East Germany will be the more prosperous part of Germany.

It will certainly be the more technologically advanced part. It is already easier to use a computer modem in the East, where newly installed telephones are computer-compatible, than in the West.

Credit card companies, which

Mozambique rebel steps from shadows

By Dennis Redmont
Associated Press

ROME — Mozambique's mysterious guerrilla leader Afonso Dhlakama has emerged from 15 years of fighting in the Bush and stepped into the limelight — after reaching an apparent resolution to the civil war.

Mr. Dhlakama had been an enigma until recently. His age, marital status, and whereabouts were kept secret and he rarely granted interviews.

"People thought I was someone who had horns and ate babies for breakfast, especially the Americans," Mr. Dhlakama said Saturday, a day after he and Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano agreed to reach a peace settlement by Oct. 1.

Dressed in a dark suit and sipping tea in a Rome hotel, the bespectacled, Mr. Dhlakama looked ready to trade his 20 years of soldiering for the verbal spar-

ring of a multiparty election campaign in 1992.

Mr. Dhlakama fought with the Portuguese, Mozambican and finally the RENAMO armies. And during the civil war he has been branded alternatively: The Pol Pot of Africa, a puppet of white-ruled Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and South Africa, and an anti-communist freedom fighter.

"But our fight was always for human rights, multiparty government and a market economy. And we now have 85 per cent of the country behind us," he claimed in an interview with the Associated Press.

On Friday, two years of talks mediated by Zimbabwe, Italy and the Vatican culminated with an embrace between Mr. Dhlakama and once-marxist Mr. Chissano and their pledge to work for a cease-fire.

Mr. Dhlakama, 41, who traveled to Rome with his wife Rosalia, says the shooting will

stop once the seven agreements signed by negotiators in Rome become law. At that time his RENAMO will become a political party. Mr. Dhlakama says he plans to run for office, and if defeated, he promises to remain in loyal opposition.

Until then, Mr. Dhlakama plans to fly back to his Gorongosa base, explain the agreement to his followers and return to Europe to raise money for his "improvised movement."

He also wants to alert the world to the 2 million people displaced by war and brought there.

Mr. Dhlakama's journey in search of financial support will not be a first for the rebel leader whose children attend school in Lisbon.

Although he long hid in the depths of the Gorongosa forest, Mr. Dhlakama says he received support from conservative leaders

LETTERS

What trial?

To the Editor:

I read reports in your paper on Iraq's arresting 600 merchants and executing 42 of them. Your paper also quotes diplomats as saying that those executed were tried, in other words, the course of law was taken before execution.

It must be clear to you that people who are tied to lamp posts on public streets, with passers-by invited to insult and beat them, shortly before being executed, could not have been tried in the way civilised societies are used to.

Iraqis who have just arrived in Amman tell stories of the victims being brutally beaten before their summary executions.

It is most regrettable that the regime in Baghdad has decided to reach for scapegoats to cover for the worsening economic situation in Iraq, resulting from the U.N.-imposed sanctions. It is these sanctions which have caused scarcity of commodities and the spiralling of prices and inflation, and not the merchants of Iraq, some of whom in fact contributed to make available some goods. The fact that these goods are expensive is due to the worthless value of the Iraqi dinar.

One thing is certain: The brutal massacre of merchants is not going to improve the economic situation in Iraq. It may actually make it worse, simply because other merchants are certainly going to abstain from trading in food stuff or spare parts, which the country is in need of.

Brutalities are not beyond the regime in Iraq; what was intended by the latest one is not clear and does not make much sense, if massacre of human beings makes sense at all, no matter what the pretext.

In Jordan, democratic values are sprouting and the democratic press should be supporting the cause of justice, sanity and human dignity, not only in Jordan but in the sister nation next door as well.

An Iraqi citizen (living in Amman),
Name withheld upon request.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Bush approves \$10b loan guarantees

(Continued from page 1)

Washington on Aug. 24. Mr. Rabin announced, meanwhile, that separate talks between Israel and Arab countries on such issues as refugees, the environment and water resources would resume in September.

"The time has come to make peace, not simply talk of it," Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Rabin said, "we shall do our best to inject new momentum in the negotiations."

It was Mr. Bush's fourth appearance before television cameras in recent days, and campaign aides said privately they were hoping for a political dividend from the obvious improvement in U.S.-Israeli relations.

In his opening statement, Mr. Bush said merely that he and Mr. Rabin had reached agreement on "basic principles" to govern the loan guarantees. Asked later precisely what he meant, he said a firm enough agreement had been reached to submit the legislation to Congress.

"I've long been committed to supporting Israel in the historic task of absorbing immigrants and I'm delighted the prime minister and I have agreed to an approach which will assist these new Israelis without frustrating the

search for peace," Mr. Bush said.

The loan guarantees had become a bargaining chip in the cool atmosphere that developed between Mr. Bush and Shamir, whose hardline Likud party was voted out of office in June.

Israel asked for the guarantees last September to help provide housing and job training to Soviet Jews who emigrate to Israel. They commit the United States to repay private bank loans to Israel if it defaults over a five-year period.

But the United States tied the loans to Israel's willingness to stop building settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Shamir refused; Mr. Rabin was more accommodating and Mr. Bush invited him on the day Mr. Rabin took office for a visit to Keenebunkport.

The president accorded him an honour extended only to three other leaders, an overnight stay at his vacation home, a gesture the administration plainly hoped not to be lost on Jewish voters.

The date for the sixth round of peace talks was not a surprise. Secretary of State James Baker, on a trip to the Mideast last month, found Israelis and Arabs eager to resume the discussions promptly.

Mr. Rabin, in a conciliatory gesture after he was named prime minister in June, proposed having the peace talks held on a continuing basis. He said he did not want to "lose precious time."

The last round was held in Washington in April. The talks are expected to last at least a month. The area that holds the most promise of progress is Palestinian self-rule.

An American official, speaking on condition of anonymity, characterised the Bush-Rabin talks as productive, constructive, warm and cordial. They continued over lunch and dinner with no rigid agenda or timetables to meet.

Occasionally the two men strolled outside into the warm sunshine and looked at the spectacular ocean view.

Mr. Rabin praised Mr. Bush's leadership of the peace process as well as of the allied victory in the Gulf war over Iraq, and said Israel would do its part to achieve peace with the Arabs.

"We are open-minded, but in the Middle East there is a saying that for war one side is enough, for peace you need two," Rabin said.

"We hope that we'll have this second partner."

With the conclusion of the Keenebunkport talks, Mr. Bush and Rabin were to fly to Washington where the prime minister planned to meet other U.S. officials and, later, with Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton.

Mr. Bush has fallen far behind Mr. Clinton in presidential preference polls for the Nov. 3 election, in which the small but active U.S. Jewish vote could have considerable impact.

Palestinians say no shift

(Continued from page 1)

ment on the "plan" with Israel, represented at a secret Cairo meeting by Irfan Sneh, an aide to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and a former administrator of the occupied West Bank. Faisal Husseini, overall leader of the Palestinian delegation, was present during the meeting, according to the report. In her comments to Reuters, Dr. Ashrawi denied that Mr. Husseini ever attended such a meeting.

Dr. Erakat said he got in touch with Mr. Abbas in Tunis on Monday and the PLO Executive Committee "totally denied the report."

According to the report, the two sides agreed on free elections to produce an "administrative council" to take charge of self-government in the occupied territories for a period of five years. The council will assume office one month after elections, which will be supervised by a "central election commission" made up of Palestinians, Israelis and representatives of the U.S. and Russia — co-sponsors of the peace process — the United Nations and other agencies.

Mr. Abbas, fellow PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo and Arafat advisor Nabil Shaath, journalist Akram Haniyeh, and delegation advisor Mamdouh Nofel will brief the PLO chairman on the finer details of the plan and to get his approval.

Following are some of the "details" of the plan as carried in the report: — A Palestinian police force trained in Jordan, Egypt and France will supervise the elections and take charge of security in the occupied territories. The force will be made up of Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) members as well as Palestinian policemen who served in the Israeli security forces since 1967.

— A "follow-up committee" made up of Palestinians, Israelis and international representatives will supervise the police force. — The "follow-up committee" will also take charge of "economic cooperation" with governments in the region. — A meeting held in Tunis last month reviewed the elections as well as the possible candidates for the self-rule authorities. Those opposing the peace process have varying approaches to the elections. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habis and the PFLP-General Command refused to participate in the elections while both wings of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) will take part. It is expected that Hamas will also take part but without naming official candidates.

— No agreement has been reached on including Jerusalem in the elections.

— The question of the author-

ities and responsibilities of the self-government authorities remains under discussion. These include such issues of sovereignty as flag, revenues, stamps, taxes etc. These have been rejected by Israel.

— The two sides accept that the two co-sponsors will mediate whenever dispute arises.

— The two sides are committed to the negotiating process until they reach a comprehensive agreement on the self-government arrangements.

— If agreement is not reached by Nov. 1, the date given in the co-sponsors' letter of invitation, the two sides will work on the agreements already reached and will continue negotiations to reach agreement on the remaining points in a period not more than three months.

— Israel will withdraw its military and civil administration in coordination with the self-government authority, but will retain military presence in "security-sensitive areas."

— Principles of free elections and secret balloting will be guaranteed on the basis of which the free and fair elections are judged.

— Free media access will be allowed for the elections. — The self-government will have authority in 25 specific areas. These are: Justice, agriculture, budget, civic services, trade, culture, education, finance, health, housing and construction, industry, internal communications and postal services, external transport, labour, police force and prisons, manpower, municipal affairs, environment and gardens, public works, religious affairs, refugee affairs, social security, taxes and tourism.

— The scope of the self-government authority's work is limited to the interim arrangements for five years and will in no way be linked with whatever final agreement emerges in negotiations.

— Coordination between the self-government and Israeli authorities is essential in some areas, and this will be agreed upon during the negotiations.

— The self-government has no right to change the status of private-owned land during the five-year period.

— The two sides will have guarantees on the use of the water resources in a manner that will not affect the people in the occupied territories or Israelis.

— A regional authority will be formed to represent the various people of the area and will be entrusted with ensuring that water resources benefit everyone.

— A special panel will be set up to draw up a format for people who fled their homes in 1967 to enter the territories after guaranteeing that no tampering will be done with internal security. This will be done one month after the self-government comes into office.

Jordan appreciates Arab aid but...

(Continued from page 1)

bisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces in the 1950s. "I realised that the move was bound to strain relations with Britain but I also was sure that relations would soon be normal again, based on mutual cooperation and common interests," he said.

He said that the Arabisation, which was a step to give confidence to the Arab people that they live free on their own soil was followed by Egypt's nationalisation of the Suez Canal; thus enhancing that same feeling.

"Jordan has always sought to live in harmony and close cooperation with the Arab states and the rest of the world and we can never abandon its dreams and aspirations," the King added.

Abed Rabbo
(Continued from page 1)

statement applauding the Israeli move to amend its anti-PLO law as recognising "the political reality" but saying it does not go far enough.

The amendment, likely to come before parliament in October, would remove a major irritant from Arab-Israeli affairs.

The 1986 law forbids contacts with the PLO and has led to prison terms for two Israeli peace crusaders. A third case is pending.

The law barring contacts with the PLO has resulted in senior Palestinian peace negotiators

being questioned by police each time they allegedly meet Mr. Arafat and his aides. At one point Mr. Bush expressed concern about the policy.

Expectations of a change arose in June with the election of Mr. Rabin's moderate government. It is likely to ease the strain in U.S.-Israeli relations that built up under the previous government of Yitzhak Shamir.

"We were convinced that parliamentary life is the most exemplary pattern and that participation in the decision-making process and sharing in the responsibility

can best represent the democracy with which we can confront the dangers and the challenges."

On political parties that existed before and those that are being formed today, the King said that there was a big difference since those of the past were linked to movements and political groups existing outside Jordan. Furthermore, the King said, those parties represented various trends from the extreme right to the extreme left. "We have come a long way and matured now since the 1950s, and we have gone through numerous experiments which enhanced our concept of our intrinsic capabilities and the duty that we have to shoulder and perform."

Answering a question on how Jordan can strike a balance between the Islamic law and democracy, given the loud voices in Jordan calling for the application of Islamic law, King Hussein said the civil law, which Jordan has adopted and implemented, was a pioneering step, which guided other Arab and Islamic countries. "Through this law, we were able to reconcile our situation and build on Islamic bases in order to ensure that we can live on this earth as one family."

He noted that "Islam calls on us as Muslims to be together and to pride ourselves in being Muslims adding that it is a continuous

tion of the past."

He said there might be "some parties who try to distort the clear and pure image of Islam." "Islam is our might and the reason for our existence. It is greater and more sublime than too much of what we see or notice," the King said. "Islam is the religion of all times and all ages and it is broader, greater and more sublime than any of the images some are trying to project, intentionally or unintentionally."

He also said that any attempt aimed at dividing the Jordanian family will not be accepted by Jordanians who accepted the collective work formula as a way for democratisation, understanding and cooperation.

On the role of Jordanian diplomacy in pushing the peace process, King Hussein said: "Hau Jordanian diplomacy been able to play its role in the way it perceived and wished, results would have been completely different."

Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian people, who have the right to say their word on their issue, which is our issue too."

King Hussein said he did not expect a solution to the Middle East problem before the U.S. elections.

"However," the King said, "I might be mistaken. I am optimistic, but with care."

Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

held after Syria withdraws its troops from the Beirut area in September as agreed in a peace accord of 1989.

The opposition is made up of several groups and leaders, including Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces, followers of exiled General Michel Aoun, the National Liberal Party of Dori Chamoun and the National Bloc of self-exiled Deputy Raymond Eddé.

The meeting at Patriarch Sfeir's headquarters, which was chaired by the patriarch and attended by the opposition and pro-Syrian ministers and deputies, failed to come up with a united stand.

While the opposition insisted on boycotting the elections, the pro-Syrian officials said they would run.

The growing political crisis drove the Lebanese pound to a new record low on Monday. It closed at a rate of 2,395 against the dollar, down from Friday's 2,315, the central bank said.

61-year old woman gives birth

ROME (AP) — A 61-year-old Italian woman became the oldest woman on record to give birth and mother and son were both fine and recovering following a difficult pregnancy, news reports said. Liliana Cantadori, a midwife, was the second 61-year-old Italian woman to give birth this year, said the reports. Her husband's sperm had been used to fertilise another woman's egg, which was then implanted in her womb. In the spring, a Neapolitan gynecologist said one of his patients, a 62-year-old Italian, was due to give birth in August. That doctor, Raffaele Magli, said in early June that another one of his patients, an unidentified 61-year-old woman, gave birth in the spring. Those two women also were impregnated through in vitro fertilisation. The Guinness Book of World Records lists a California woman who was 57½ when she bore a child in 1956 as the oldest woman to give birth. The Italian weekly Oggi, described as having exclusive rights to Mrs. Cantadori's story, said the woman gave birth Monday by Caesarean section to a nearly three-kilo (6.6 pound) boy, Andrea, in the hospital where she works.

Beepers used to herd cows

TOKYO (AP) — The beep of a pocket pager usually sends a doctor, a busy executive or even a drug dealer scurrying to a telephone for an important message. But in southwestern Japan, that beep is calling a cow to its chow. Yes, it's true. A Japanese rancher is herding his cattle by equipping them with pocket beepers. And it seems to be working. A handful of cows undergoing special training at the Shimane Prefectural Animal Husbandry Experiment Station are learning to stop grazing and head towards their feeding area when the beepers dangling from their necks (cattle, after all, don't have pockets) go off. It took only a week of Pavlov-inspired training in which the heifers listened to beepers while they chewed wheat husks, which they preferred to grass, at the feed lot, says Atsuo Minari, who oversees the experiment. "Cows are nearly as intelligent as dogs," he says. Mr. Minari now only needs to dial the cow's number on a portable phone to get their attention. "They look up immediately from eating the grass," he says. Often.

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

S. African Olympians return as heroes

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's first Olympic squad for 32 years returned home Tuesday to a tumultuous welcome from blacks and whites. About 1,000 people of all races cheered as the team landed at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts Airport, the blacks singing freedom songs and the whites waving South African flags and chanting "Springbok, Springbok." Abel Mokhe, who finished 25th in the Marathon last Sunday, was carried shoulder-high by proud residents of his black township, Tembisa. The fact South Africa won no gold medals on its return to the Olympics did little to dampen from the crowd's joy. "We had a superb team and all members did the best they could," Sam Ramsamy, president of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa, told reporters. "We are now established in international sport." The country's only silver medalists — athlete Elana Meyer for the 10,000 metres and tennis players Pietie Norval and Wayne Ferreira — remained in Europe for the time being. Ramsamy said the medals were "a bonus" and now was the time to evaluate what happened in Barcelona to prepare for the next Olympics, in the U.S. city of Atlanta in 1996.

Czech athlete drops gold medal in taxi

BARCELONA (R) — Czechoslovak decathlete Robert Zmelik battled for two days to win gold at the games — then left his medal in a taxi. Fortunately driver Modesto Remedios spotted a stray bag on the back seat after the athlete, whom he did not recognise, got out on Monday night. "I thought there would be a few coins in it, but there turned out to be an Olympic gold medal," he said. He handed it in and games officials traced the owner on Tuesday through the medal's serial number.

S. Africa to compete in 1994 World Cup

ZURICH (R) — South Africa are being allowed to take part in the 1994 World Cup soccer competition, the International Football Federation (FIFA) said Tuesday. South Africa were re-admitted to FIFA on July 3, ending a 18-year absence, and played their first international the same month against the 1990 World Cup quarterfinalists Cameroon. A FIFA spokesman said teams could enter the competition, even at this late stage, in those federations where the preliminary matches had not yet started. South Africa replace Sao Tome and Principe, who pulled out of Africa's Group D, and will kick off their campaign away to Nigeria on Oct. 10. The other teams in the group are Congo and Libya. The FIFA spokesman also said that Benin will replace Malawi, who have pulled out of Group F, while Namibia, also admitted to FIFA in July, replace Burkina Faso, who withdrew from Group H.

Krabbe trainer fired from club

BERLIN (R) — Katrin Krabbe's athletics club sacked her trainer Tuesday for giving the double world sprint champion the banned stimulant clenbuterol. "Thomas Springstein irresponsibly betrayed his duty as trainer of caring for the athletes under his charge," the Neubrandenburg Sports Club (SCN) said in a statement. Springstein admitted last week to buying clenbuterol on the black market for Krabbe and team Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr. The drug, used for asthma treatment, is banned by

the International Olympic Committee (IOC). "He thereby not only damaged the athletes but also the club," the statement said. Traces of the banned drug were found after random out-of-competition tests on the athletes in July. Krabbe, who did not compete at the Olympics, was later quoted as saying she took the drug, but only after her doctor told her it was not on the banned list. SCN, the athletes' home club, said it would decide later whether to expel Krabbe and Breuer. Their future membership in the club would depend on a hearing into their case later this year by the German Athletics Federation (DLV), it said.

Gilbert advances at ATP Championships

MASON, Ohio (R) — Veteran Brad Gilbert opened his bid for a second title at the \$1.4 million Thriftway ATP Championships with a 7-6 (8-6) 6-4 win over Jonathan Stark. "I'm 31, but I don't feel my best days are behind me," said the 13th seeded Gilbert, the event's 1989 champion. "I'm still hitting the ball well and I'm still having fun. I'd be just a youngster in golf or baseball." Gilbert's hard fought triumph over the 22-year-old Stark punctuated play on the opening day of the week long tournament as the top eight seeds including Jim Courier, Stefan Edberg, Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Andre Agassi all received first round byes. Edberg, who is preparing for defence of his U.S. Open title which begins in New York on Aug. 31, and the reigning Wimbledon champion Agassi are scheduled to play Tuesday.

Barkley to defend boxing title

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Iran Barkley will defend his International Boxing Federation super middleweight title on Oct. 16 in Peking in the main event of a programme that will include three other world title fights. Barkley will battle Doug Dewitt of Yonkers, New York, in a 12-round bout at 17,000-seat Capital Gymnasium. It will be the eighth world title in Barkley's career. The card will also feature a title defence by World Boxing Organisation (WBO) light heavyweight champion Leonzer Barber of Detroit against Mike Sedillo of China, California. Gerald McClelland, the WBO middleweight champion, and Jesse Benavides, the WBO junior welterweight title, will also make defences against opponents to be determined.

Connors to take on Navratilova

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jimmy Connors said Monday he's always wanted a chance to be the unofficial women's tennis champion. He'll have a shot when he takes on Martina Navratilova in "the battle of the champions" exhibition match next month in Las Vegas. Connors is taking the \$500,000 winner-take-all challenge seriously, calling it "a war." "I've been looking forward to setting this record straight since Billy Jean King played Bobby Riggs 20 years ago," said Connors, who appeared at a news conference with Navratilova. "This match may give women something to shout about, plus it gives me the opportunity to do something I've never experienced in my career," said Navratilova, who has won 159 women's singles titles. Connors, who's won 109 men's singles titles, will turn 40 three weeks before the Sept. 25 meeting. Navratilova is 35. Navratilova will benefit from an expanded court on Connors' side of the net with special lines drawn to give her a two-foot-wide advantage. Connors will be allowed only one serve. She'll have the usual two.



Magic Johnson

Johnson considers comeback

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Magic Johnson said Monday he feels healthy after helping the United States win a gold medal at the Olympics but that he and his wife have yet to decide if he'll return to the Los Angeles Lakers.

"What's going to happen is my wife and I are going to sit down and we're going to talk about it and see. It all depends on if I feel like coming back. That's all," he said on The Arsenio Hall Show. Johnson, who turns 33 Friday, said he would consult with his doctor to determine how many games he would play if he were to return — but not to ask his doctor's permission.

"If I decide to come back, we (he and his doctor) have to get together and say OK 60 games, 70 games, 80, that whole thing."

Not the fact on whether or not to come back. That's all my own decision," he said. Johnson said his wife, Cookie initially was against him playing professional basketball again. He retired nine months ago after learning he had the virus that causes AIDS.

"Then as we both got educated and found out that everything was going good and we knew what it's going to take for me to be here with you and her for a long time, then she said OK," he said.

"And I know I'm healthy, I'm strong, I'm ready to go. And now it's just deciding whether I want to do that for another year or two or if I just want to stay a businessman and just enjoy hanging out with you and my wife and my son and so on."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Good day to gain the inspiration you need from higher sources to make those fondest plans come true while renewing the proper spirit within you. Give your highest self full control.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consider well not responding early to little annoyances and later you will be able to see how to put some accepted new system into effect to aid you.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Some pleasure can disappoint in the morning after when you are able to get in touch with compatible companions and get them to go along with your recreations.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You need to sidestep a pending argument at home early but then you are able to get conditions argued there as you desire them to be.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A communication can cause you some early daytime anxiety but this soon lifts and you find you can gain data you desire from periodicals.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Consider well how you commit yourself or make any daytime commitment while to the evening you are able to act with acumen where material interests obtain.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) An acquaintance does some-

thing you do not like and question but say nothing for later conditions work out so all well that ends well.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your morning not to take offense when something occurs you do not like for it soon passes and you find you can gain peace through own meditations.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you have in mind where getting some goal early is involved can meet with a rebuff but this is not for long and soon you have your hearts desire.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) One you expect to back you in a worldly matter does not do so early but persevere and later you get the support and backing you anticipated.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You want to get off to a new appeal but you are held back during the morning by chores but then you find everything of a new nature becomes clear sailing.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your mate does not understand a plan you have for a joint benefit in the morning and soon you get that persons whole hearted cooperation.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't be put off the distance or gruffness of an associate but lay your cards on the table and thresh out the agreement you have in mind.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Whenever I feel like you don't love me anymore I just fall to pieces!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HYPON

TYTUN

DEPLUH

MOBERY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: AN

Saturday's Jumbles: CLOAK TIGER UNPACK BEHAVE

Answer: For him there was no difference between his vacation and this—A VACATION

(Answers tomorrow)

Answers tomorrow

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A954 ♠Q6 ♠83 ♠Q7642
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
2.5 Pass Pass Dbl
Page 7
Weak two-bid
What action do you take?
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠94 ♠7632 ♠Q752 ♠1098
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1.5 Dbl Pass ?
What action do you take?
Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q ♠A5 ♠5 ♠AKQ8763
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1.5 Pass 1.5 ?
What action do you take?
Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠6 ♠AJ108542 ♠J5 ♠AJ9
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1.5 Pass 1.5 Pass
2.5 Pass 3.5 Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK6 ♠AK7532 ♠A ♠952
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?
Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J7543 ♠1098 ♠A10 ♠A65
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1.5 Pass 1.5 Pass
1.5 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

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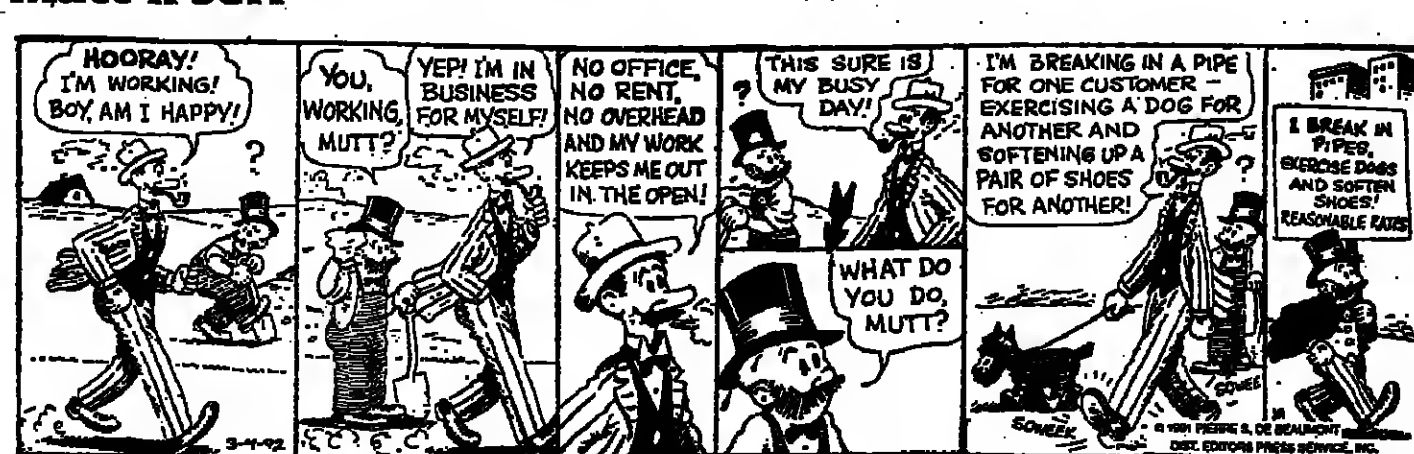
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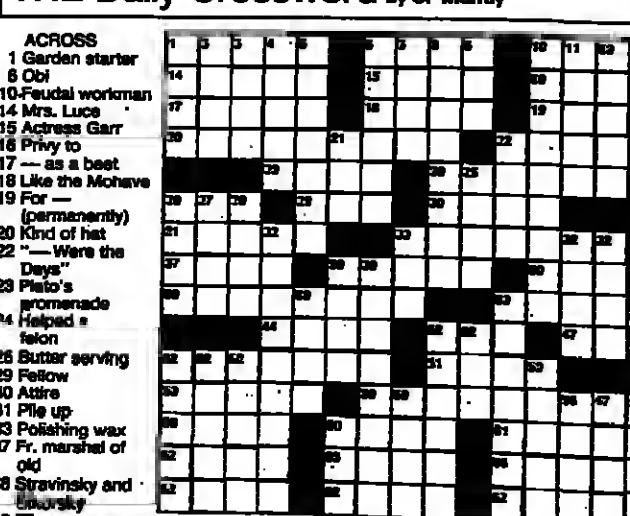
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Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by CF Murray



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Stock trading in China suspended after riots; Press blames mayhem on 'trouble makers'

SHENZHEN, China (R) — Trading on the turbulent Shenzhen Stock Exchange was suspended on Tuesday after crowds desperate to buy shares rioted in the southern boom town.

Police on Monday fired shots into the air and used tear gas to try and control the protesters.

In Beijing, a stock market source said that cabinet members had held an emergency meeting to discuss the mayhem in Shenzhen, a showcase for senior leader Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms.

A Shenzhen official said the Tuesday afternoon trading session had been cancelled. The stock exchange would probably re-open on Wednesday.

The official said the suspension would affect both "A" shares for Chinese and "B" shares reserved for foreigners.

Asked why the session had to be closed, the official said: "It is because of what happened on Monday."

Tens of thousands of stock speculators rampaged through Shenzhen on Monday to denounce alleged corruption over share allocations, witnesses said.

In some of the worst violence to hit China's brief flirtation with

stock market capitalism, protesters chanting "down with corruption" kicked and beat plainclothes police, set a van ablaze and overturned several vehicles.

Shenzhen authorities desperate to quell the protests triggered by the bungled sale of share applications, forms, promised angry crowds on Tuesday to issue five million more forms, witnesses said.

Notices posted outside banks in Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, said that half a million tickets would be issued on Tuesday afternoon for stock market investors who failed to secure forms in a stampede after they went on sale on Sunday.

Each ticket could be exchanged for 10 forms next month allowing applicants to enter a lottery in which shares to be issued in the 1992-93 financial year would be allocated.

Thousands of people gathered in front of the banks while police appealed for order through loud hailers. There were no reports of fresh violence.

Stock market fever, fuelled by official reports of ordinary Chinese making fortunes by share trading, lured one million people to Shenzhen over the weekend

hoping to get rich quickly.

The Chinese official press has blamed the riots on a few trouble makers.

"A few people took advantage of the imbalance in the supply and demand for new share lottery tickets and a few faults in the organisational work to stir up the emotions of a portion of the crowd," the Beijing Evening News said.

The comment on Tuesday was the first mention in the capital's press of the troubles in the southern bourse.

The newspaper's report, headlined, "a tiny minority make trouble and are controlled" said several police were injured in the melee.

Its front-page story said some cars and motorcycles were burned while others were overturned by the crowd, which smashed street lights in the rampage.

The people's armed police quickly rushed to the scene and restored order, the newspaper said.

China's tightly controlled official press rarely reports disturbances, but many Beijing residents had already learned of the troubles in Shenzhen from listening to

short-wave radio broadcasts.

Analysts said that by blaming the riot on a tiny minority of trouble makers, authorities were trying to keep the stock market experiment from being called into question.

The newspaper said only two or three hundred people had demonstrated, but witnesses said thousands had gone on a rampage in anger at alleged corruption in the distribution of lottery tickets for a chance to buy shares.

Five million forms were officially on sale at the weekend but huge numbers of investors failed to buy any.

The top-level meeting in Beijing indicates how seriously the unrest is regarded.

Stock markets are the most daring aspect of Deng's reform programme, which has run into opposition from hardliners committed to central planning.

The struggle has reached a crucial stage in the run-up to a Communist Party congress later this year.

Western diplomats have speculated that hardliners are hiding their time, waiting for the reforms to be discredited if the economy, as expected, overheats or inflation gets out of control.

Russian arms industry looks for new markets

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's top warplane designer accused the West on Tuesday of trying to squeeze Russia out of world arms markets, fearing the superiority of its hardware.

Rostislav Belyakov, head of the Mikoyan Bureau responsible for Russia's most sophisticated MiG fighter, was speaking before the start of Moscow's first international air show which the Kremlin hopes will help spearhead a new arms sales drive.

Mr. Belyakov said the quality of his warplanes was beyond doubt, but not one had been sold in the whole of 1991. Ill-trained ministerial sales staff must shoulder much blame for the failure, he said.

"There are problems in sales," Mr. Belyakov told the defence ministry newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda.

"Western rivals do not want to allow us onto world markets. The order is plain: Squeeze Russia out of all areas," Mr. Belyakov told the defence ministry daily. "The foreign press does not miss a chance to blacken the name of Russian aviation."

At the formerly top-secret Zimkovka Airfield, near Moscow, aircraft produced in former Soviet republics formed a line two kilometres long to mark the formal opening of Russia's first international air show. Ninety foreign companies were present.

"Russia is beginning to reawaken as a mighty state," Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi said at the opening.

"This air show is proof of that."

Mr. Belyakov said exports in

the past had been left in the hands of ministerial officials who knew little of what they were selling.

The bureau and the production plant had therefore set up a new agency, MiG-Service, to trade in aircraft and spare parts, cutting out bureaucratic middlemen.

The Russian arms industry was for decades assured of orders from its own armed forces, numbering 3.5 million, and from allied Warsaw Pact countries. Communist rulers channelled the most qualified workers and best materials into military plants.

Now Moscow's domination of East Europe is over and its own forces are being radically cut back. The only hope for arms producers across Russia, from the Mikoyan Bureau to the Tula Kalashnikov Rifle Factory, is opening up new overseas markets.

Without foreign sales, plants will be forced to shut down production, and research, leaving Russia's own defences weakened.

President Boris Yeltsin has given the go-ahead for an overseas sales drive.

The new MiG-Service will be pushing hard to sell its most successful warplane, the MiG-29, in areas long dominated by its U.S. competition, the F-16 and F-18. The Russian plane is already produced under licence in India and is being used in the Middle East.

The MiG-29 made a dramatic world debut at Britain's Farnborough Airshow in 1988, performing acrobatics unmatched by rivals. At the Paris Airshow soon afterwards, it crashed.

Tokyo Nikkei breaks 15,000 government appeals for help

TOKYO (AP) — Share prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange sank below 15,000 for the first time in six years, prompting a government appeal for public support for the ailing market.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average shed 243.78 points or 1.62 per cent, to close at 14,822.56. The Nikkei last closed 15,000 on March 5, 1986, when it finished at 14,826.87.

An estimated 190 million shares changed hands in thin trading.

On Monday, the Nikkei broke through the 15,000 point floor for the first time in six years, but recovered slightly later in the day to close at 15,066.34, down 451.93 points.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the market's first section lost 21.76 points, or 1.89 per cent, Tuesday to close at 1,126.80. The Topix lost 32.67 points, or 2.77 per cent, on Monday.

On Tuesday, selling pressure overwhelmed early support by institutional investors who pushed prices higher in the morning session with bargain-basing and index-linked buying.

With no signs of a recovery in sight, top government officials implored investors to return to the market after over two years of declines stemming partly from massive financial scandals and the deteriorating economic outlook.

Minister of International Trade and Industry Kozo Watanabe urged individual investors to buy stocks to help the stock market and the ailing economy.

Watanabe also said corporations, which have sharply cut

spending due to excess inventories, should make their stocks more attractive by spending more.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, meanwhile, said he was bemused by the precipitous plunge in the price of shares in the former government telephone monopoly, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), because he believed the company has plenty of growth potential.

NTT shares fell only 2,000 yen to 465,000 Tuesday after plunging 42,000 yen Monday. The former star of the Tokyo market now is worth less than one-sixth its peak value of 3.18 million yen (\$25,040).

Market analysts scoffed at the official pleas, who said they would only anger investors who have lost their next eggs in the market.

"It's a slap to their faces," said Kathy Matsui, analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

"Sounds like wartime propaganda," said Richard C. Koo, senior economist at Nomura research institute. "Exhortations like that assume that it's just psychology that's wrong and if they tell the right stories everything will be fine."

Many economists predict a prolonged and difficult adjustment to the financial crisis that has resulted from the steep decline in stock prices.

Share prices have dropped by more than half since the Nikkei Average peaked at 38,915.87 points at the end of 1989. The fall accelerated when many investors abandoned the market following the disclosure last year of questionable trading techniques by dozens of brokerages.

Central banks intervene to support dollar

FRANKFURT (R) — Central Banks bought dollars on Tuesday in a concerted round of intervention to support the U.S. currency against the mark.

The German Central Bank, the Bundesbank, said it had bought dollars. Dealers said the U.S. Federal Reserve had joined the intervention along with other

European central banks.

A spokesman for the Bundesbank said in response to inquiries that the action had been undertaken at the initiative of U.S. monetary authorities.

Friday's intervention had raised fears that European central banks might join in a further round of dollar buying this week.

The dollar jumped more than a penny in European trading following the action, and was trading at 1.4740 marks at 1230 GMT after hitting a low earlier on Tuesday of 1.4600 marks.

Lebanese pound plunges on political tension

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's pound, once one of the strongest currencies in the Middle East, slumped to yet another record low on Tuesday on political uncertainty in the run-up to its first general election in 20 years.

Bankers said depositors rushed to buy dollars on Beirut's Foreign Exchange Market as the country plunged to its worst political crisis since the 15-year civil war ended in 1990.

The pound closed at a rate of 2,550 to the dollar, down from Monday's previous record low of 2,395, the Central Bank said.

The political crisis erupted after the Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hrawi called Lebanon's first general election in 20 years for August 23.

Christian opponents want the election postponed until after a

Syrian troop withdrawal from the Beirut area in September. They said they would boycott the polls and vowed unspecified measures that could include strikes and demonstrations.

"Politics, not economics is behind the continued fall of the pound," one banker said. "There is fear that the government and opposition are on a collision course over the election."

Security sources and diplomats say they fear the rift could spark a new round of violence before the election.

Mr. Hrawi told the opposition on Monday a boycott would push the war-shattered country into the unknown. He accused the opposition of manipulating the economic crisis and using it as a political weapon. He did not elaborate.

Dispute among EFA partners continues

MADRID (R) — Defence Ministers from Germany, Britain, Italy and Spain have agreed to study new options for the Eurofighter (EFA) after Germany confirmed its decision to withdraw from the production phase of the aircraft programme.

The EFA project is dead. Now we will talk about the possibility of developing another fighter which costs only up to 90 million marks (\$65 million each), German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe told reporters after the ministerial meeting here.

While Germany's partners were reluctant to declare the project moribund, they did decide to slash the cost of the exercise which at \$38.2 billion is Europe's biggest collaborative defence project.

"Spain can't go ahead with the production phase if the costs are not significantly modified," Spanish Defence Minister Julian Garcia Vargas said.

He said Spain and Italy backed a 50 per cent reduction in costs, in line with Germany's proposals for a cheaper version of the twin engine aircraft.

All four nations will continue with the development phase of the project but are freezing new contracts, while they examine what step to take next.

"We've agreed to move ahead

with the development phase and over the next three months study all our available options," British Defence Minister Malcolm Rifkind said. He said none of the four at this stage were committed to a 30 per cent cost cut.

A steering committee headed by the chiefs of staff of the four nation's armed forces will examine a reduction of military requirements to a Eurofighter fighter and report at the end of October. In November, the four ministers will meet again to review the results.

Since May when Germany announced it would bale out of the production phase of EFA, Britain has fought hard to persuade its partner not to abandon the project.

But both Italy and Spain, which face ballooning budget deficits and gloom economic outlooks, appear to be losing faith in the original project.

"My expectations were exceeded as regards their acceptance of our position," Germany's Ruehe said of his Italian and Spanish colleagues.

Their move closer to the German position could force the British to agree to steeper scaledown of the plane than London was originally prepared to accept.

Britain has argued that redesign of the plane would involve higher costs.

Negotiators continue talks on N. America trade

WASHINGTON (R) — Negotiators for Canada, Mexico and the United States on Monday continued marathon talks to try to complete a deal to establish a continental free trade zone.

A U.S. trade official said she hoped the talks were in their final day, but added, "we have hoped that for several days."

Top negotiators have been huddled at the Watergate Hotel since late July trying to work out the complex pact to dismantle trade barriers to bring Mexico into the existing U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement.

Sticking points have dealt with phase-out periods for tariffs, determining the domestic content requirement for cars to receive duty-free treatment, establishing a system to settle disputes among the three trade partners, and some intellectual property issues, U.S. officials said.

"When you get to wrapping up the final issues in the negotiations, the ones left to the last are

the hardest," said Jeffrey Schott, of the Institute for International Economics.

"They've done remarkably well when you consider it's only been 14 months (of negotiations)," Schott said. "It really is going to be a broad-ranging and comprehensive agreement."

Most U.S. congressional sources said they expected the White House to announce the agreement with some fanfare as a measure that would generate more jobs.

Most business sectors support the agreement, which would eliminate barriers to trade in goods, services and investment as well as increase intellectual property protections.

But many labour and environmental groups oppose it, fearing U.S. jobs would gravitate to Mexico because of its lower wages, and that increased industry along the U.S.-Mexican border would worsen environmental problems.

Wealthy town decides to help illegal aliens find jobs

By Andrew Selsky
The Associated Press

GLEN COVE, N. Y. — As the early morning sky lightens over Glen Cove, a town with more than its share of multimillion-dollar estates, illegal aliens seeking day labour begin to gather in the cool shadows along a shopping street.

The job seekers, most from El Salvador or Honduras, arrive singly and in small groups, on foot and in battered cars. Some sip coffee at Carmine's Deli from "I love N.Y." paper cups. All keep a sharp eye out for landscaping and construction contractors who drive by looking for workers.

In two hours, more than 50 of the job seekers — few of whom speak English and most of them illegal aliens — are crowding a two-block stretch of Cedar Swamp Road.

Some shopkeepers feel they deter customers, and one even periodically sprays them with a hose. But the town of 24,000 on Long Island sound has decided it can't make it job seekers go away, so it may as well help them link up with employers.

The Chamber of Commerce, city council, contractors and job

seekers have embarked on a plan in which the town, working with a Hispanic advocacy group, is creating and financing an employment office for the Central Americans.

They are attracted by jobs tending the expansive lawns of mansions in Glen Cove, formerly the home of J.P. Morgan, the Woolworths and other leading industrialists and businessmen. The town also has middle-class homes and a small public housing project.

In 1989, Glen Cove passed a traffic ordinance making it illegal to solicit in the street. The aim was to drive away the job seekers, but many stayed and the town was unable to bar those remaining from standing on the sidewalk to seek work, said Mayor Donald P. Deriggi.

"They remain and it's apparent they're going to remain and we are now looking to manage that group in a more acceptable way," Mr. Deriggi said. "We're hoping this will be an answer."

The town is using \$25,000 in commissions from bond sales to set up the job office in a leased trailer on a former used car lot in an industrial section.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and Bullion Markets for Tuesday.		
One Sterling	1.9345/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1850/55	Canadian dollar
	1.4613/18	Deutsche marks
	1.6479/89	Guilders
	1.3145/55	Swiss francs
	30.09/13	Belgian francs
	4.9450/500	French francs
	1106/1107	Italian lire
	127.75/80	Japanese yen
	5.3110/60	Swedish crowns
	5.7565/615	Norwegian crowns
	5.6290/340	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$348.40/348.90	

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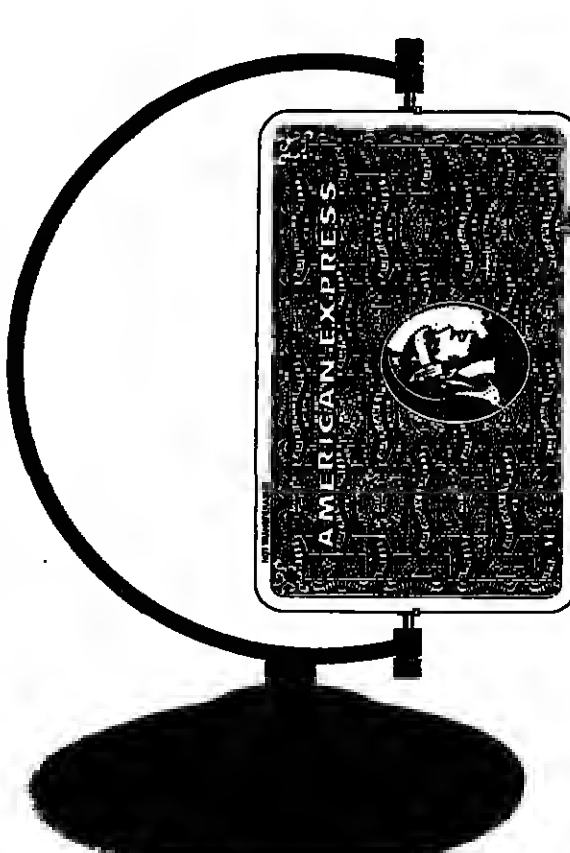
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Sarajevo blasted again; 18 killed

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (Agencies) — Mortars and heavy machine-gun fire blasted the Bosnian capital early Tuesday. Officials said 18 people were killed.

The renewed fighting in Sarajevo came as the United States, Britain and France agreed on a draft U.N. resolution authorising military force to protect aid shipments to Bosnia.

Bosnian government officials also claimed that a Serb police chief and 300 men from a village east of Sarajevo had surrendered. Officials claimed that the surrender was an indication of the success of a recent offensive to break the Serb siege of Sarajevo.

But Serbian officials reached at their headquarters in nearby Pale denied the report that Police Chief Marko Koroman of nearby Podgora had surrendered.

Doctors at the Ministry of Health said five people had been killed in Sarajevo overnight and that 13 more had been killed near the city. Another 172 were reported wounded.

In all, more than 8,000 people have been killed in fighting that began after Slavic Muslims and Croats voted for independence on Feb. 29. Serbs, a third of Bosnia's pre-war population of 4.3 million, opposed it.

They have seized 2/3 of Bosnia in fighting since the independence referendum.

Serbs also have been accused of running scores of detention centres, which prompted an international outcry because of evidence of lack of food and charges of ill treatment. Serbs say Croats and Muslims also are running camps in which they hold Serb prisoners.

Overnight, government and Serb forces exchanged fire in the mountains surrounding the city.

Many mortar rounds, tank shells and rockets fired from multiple launchers rained down on the city. Residents, who have become numb to the constant stream of blasts and reports of maimings and death, said the

fighting was not unusually intense.

In one hillside neighbourhood, several men played chess on a porch by candlelight as mortars landed several hundred metres away.

The draft U.N. resolution, circulated to the 15-member Security Council, demands unimpeded access by the International Committee of the Red Cross to all camps, prisons and detention centres — where allegations of torture and killings have been raised.

A vote was expected Wednesday.

Bosnia's U.N. ambassador, Muhamed Sacirbey, welcomed the resolution, but said it failed to say anything about halting aggression and "ethnic cleansing" by Serbian nationalists in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where more than five months of ethnic war has claimed thousands of lives.

And Yugoslav Premier Milan Panic, a U.S. citizen, warned that Western intervention could lead to a "second Vietnam."

Mr. Sacirbey asked for air strikes on Serbian positions to pressure the Serbs to end campaigns to drive Croats and Slavic Muslims from Serb-controlled areas. He asked for lifting of the U.N. arms embargo on all former Yugoslav republics, so Bosnians can defend themselves.

The U.N. Human Rights Commission agreed to take up allegations of abuses in Bosnia, including those of murder and rape of Serb-run detention camps. The United States, citing reports of "concentration camp-like conditions" and other abuses, asked last week for the meeting.

In Brussels military planners of the NATO alliance began drawing up a blueprint for a multinational force that could step in to protect relief convoys in Bosnia.

The rulers of Serb-held areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina said Monday night they were closing two of the most notorious camps.

The closures appeared to be part of a concerted effort by the



A medic checks the pulse of one of two Bosnian defenders after they were attacked and killed by Serbian militias.

Bosnian Serb authorities to clean up their disastrous international image.

"I do not doubt that there have been some irregularities (in the treatment of prisoners) on the Serb side," Bosnian Serb President Radovic Karadzic told Reuters.

"We must work to overcome the antagonisms that caused this," he said.

The easing of the fighting in Sarajevo was overshadowed by news that the city was running out of bread — the mainstay of its diet during four months of siege.

"This is a matter of life and death," said Mayor Mohammad Kreslevjakovic.

Belgrade-based Tanjug News

Agency said Bosnian Serbs had signed an agreement with U.N. peacekeepers in the city on Monday to evacuate convoys of women and children from the city from Wednesday.

British opposition politician Paddy Ashdown, visiting Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia, flew with Mr. Karadzic to inspect detention centres around Banja Luka.

Western reporters said the worst of them were being hurriedly emptied in advance of their visit.

Velibor Ostojic, Information Minister of the Maverick Serb state, said Omarska Prison, the Bosnian Serbs' main interroga-

tion centre, would be shut "within a few days."

Another camp, a former ceramics factory in neighbouring Prijedor, would also close, he said.

Prisoners from the two camps, where several thousand people have been held, have told of beatings and starvation rations.

Such reports have increased pressure on the West to strike against Serb forces, who now control 70 per cent of Bosnia.

Bosnian officials say up to 17,000 Muslims and Croats have died in Serb detention camps, a charge denied by Serb leaders who say some 6,000 Serbs have died in Bosnian camps.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

China defends its prison system

PEKING (R) — China, beset by Western accusations of torture, beatings and other abuses in its huge network of prisons and labour camps, Tuesday published its first official defence of its criminal justice system. The "white paper on criminal reform", published by the cabinet's information office, follows China's first-ever white paper issued in September which explained Peking's stance on human rights. The official New China News Agency (NCNA), which printed excerpts from the new white paper Tuesday, said the document revealed what life behind bars was like for China's 1.1 million convicts and political prisoners.

"China respects prisoners' human dignity, and allows no torture, humiliation or maltreatment of prisoners," NCNA said. The picture of Chinese justice NCNA paints is far different from the brutal system of abuse and organised exploitation described by exiled dissidents, former convicts and overseas human rights groups.

Koreans narrow cold war gap

SEOUL (R) — North and South Korea Monday narrowed the cold war gap, agreeing a framework for re-establishing land, sea and air links in a unified nation. A spokesman for Seoul's South-North Dialogue Office said 16 points, including the issue of transport links, had been agreed during two hours of talks between the North and South at the border village of Panmunjom. But scores of differences still remain between the ideological foes before they can sign a full economic pact. "Both Koreas reached final agreement on 16 items concerning mutual economic exchanges and cooperation which are included in an accord to implement the non-aggression and reconciliation pact," the spokesman said. The agreements included the re-opening of railways and roads, sea and air routes and the re-linking of mail services and other communications. The two sides also agreed to forge scientific, technological and environmental exchanges and cooperation once the border re-opens. The two sides meet again on Aug. 21 at Panmunjom.

Seoul announces arrest of Northern spy

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's Internal Security Agency said it had arrested a South Korean man who was brainwashed by the North into becoming a spy. The Agency for National Security Planning said it arrested Kim Hyo-Sub, 28, disguised as a construction worker, on charges of violating the National Security Law banning contacts with North Korea and pro-Communist activities. The agency said Mr. Kim, who had wished to live in North Korea, went to Japan in August 1991 with a tourist visa and took a job as a worker for a Tokyo-based transport company. While staying there, Mr. Kim met a Korean resident identified by the agency as Chung Kil-Yong, 46, an espionage instructor with a pro-North Korean group stationed in Japan. Mr. Kim was educated and trained by Mr. Chung for 50 days to make him a spy before his return to Seoul last October. Mr. Kim came back to Seoul, pretending he had been deported from Japan as an illegal worker, the agency said. It said Mr. Kim had been engaged in various espionage activities since then.

New Ecuador leader faces problems

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A conservative with a reputation for decency has the daunting challenge of reversing this small Andean nation's economic slide and keeping it out of the grip of drug cartels. "We are facing our last opportunity to achieve progress, our only chance to recover the people's faith. We can't waste it," Sixto Duran-Ballen, 71, told Congress Monday night after being sworn in as president. The Boston-born Duran-Ballen, a three-time presidential candidate best known as a successful mayor of Quito in the 1970s, won the presidency on July 5 by defeating another conservative, Jaime Nebot, 45. He will serve for four years, succeeding Rodrigo Borja, 57, a moderate leftist and one of Latin America's last champions of heavy state controls on the economy. Mr. Borja was ineligible for re-election.

Pakistani minister called infidel

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's National Assembly dissolved into a shouting match after the opposition branded the religious affairs minister an infidel. The pandemonium erupted after the deputy speaker refused to allow an opposition request to discuss accusations by Islamic scholars that opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was guilty of blasphemy for refusing to recognise the supremacy of Islamic laws. "(Religious Affairs Minister) Abdul Sattar Khan" Nizari is kafir (infidel) and I declare him kafir," declared opposition Deputy Khurheed Shah. Mr. Khan heads the group of Islamic scholars. Mrs. Bhutto said last week she did not accept the supremacy of the Islamic Court, which is empowered to veto any law deemed contrary to Islamic injunctions. Mrs. Bhutto had only refused to accept the supremacy of the Sharia Court and not the supremacy of Sharia, or religious laws, opposition Deputy Farooq Leghari said. However, Mr. Nizari urged Mrs. Bhutto to ask for God's forgiveness. He later told reporters Mrs. Bhutto was behaving like an infidel — an unbeliever.

Malaysia closes mission in Yugoslavia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia, which has threatened to sever ties with Yugoslavia over Serb attacks on Bosnia, has decided to close its mission in Belgrade, Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Tuesday. He said the closure did not mean Malaysia was cutting diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia. "As such, Malaysia cannot ask Yugoslavia to close its embassy in Kuala Lumpur," Mr. Abdullah was quoted as saying by the Bernama News Agency. "The head of the Yugoslav mission here is free to take whatever action in response." He said Malaysia felt it necessary to express its stand over the atrocities committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and blamed Belgrade for the turmoil.

Rwanda, rebels open 3rd peace parley

ARUSHA, Tanzania (R) — The Rwandan government offered its rebel foes an olive branch Tuesday at the start of the third round of peace talks that could end the country's 21-month civil war. "The war is unfair and murderous. We must open a new chapter," Foreign Minister Boniface Ngulinzira said at the opening session in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha at the foot of snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro. "Let us build a new nation of peace, democracy and tranquility. Let us forge a new culture of unity," Mr. Ngulinzira told delegates of the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF). The negotiations, expected to last seven days, will centre of RPF demands for the return of thousands of refugees, the absorption of its fighters into the army, the resignation of President Juvénal Habyarimana and a share in the government.

2 U.N. troops die in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — A British officer and a Tunisian private died in Cambodia Monday while serving with U.N. peacekeeping forces, a spokesman said Tuesday. Squadron leader Michael Strachan, 32, of Britain, died from an apparent heart attack as medics prepared to evacuate him from Kompong Cham, north-east of the capital, after he had complained of chest pains. "He was about to be flown back to Phnom Penh... when he died of a suspected heart attack," a spokesman for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) told reporters Tuesday. Private Moncef Azzouzi, 21, of Tunisia, drowned near Kompong Speu, north of Phnom Penh, the spokesman said. He gave no further details. Six UNTAC soldiers have died, none from battle wounds, since the multinational force of more than 15,000 began deploying in March.

Support grows for S. Africa violence probe

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's main black and white political groups voiced support Tuesday for wider probes into the country's white-led security forces and black guerrilla armies in a bid to end spiralling violence.

The search for multi-racial democracy also broadened when the radical black Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) agreed to meet government ministers for talks on political change.

President F.W. de Klerk's ruling National Party welcomed the idea of a thorough investigation of the military, police and armed wings of the African National Congress (ANC) and PAC to end distrust after decades of apartheid and bloodshed in which 12,000 blacks have died since 1984 alone.

"Such an investigation would undoubtedly help allay suspicions... the security forces and South African Police can only offer the public objective and professional service if a necessary trust is built up," a National Party statement said.

The ANC, which has long accused security forces and the government of repressing blacks, said a thorough probe was needed.

But it said any amnesty had to

include full disclosure of lawless activity and the release of some 400 political prisoners.

"We do not want everything swept under the carpet," ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said, adding that a formal response would be issued after a meeting of ANC leaders Wednesday.

Supreme Court Judge Richard Goldstone, appointed by Mr. de Klerk last September to look into political violence, has recommended an amnesty and a broader investigation of the various security and guerrilla bodies in the country.

The government said it was studying the proposals, but forward amid optimism that democracy talks suspended by ANC leader Nelson Mandela in June would begin again soon.

The PAC and government ministers were due to meet Tuesday night to discuss possible ways of including the militant group in the talks on a multi-racial constitution.

The PAC has in the past insisted on the talk being conducted in another country, but the recent involvement of the United Nations in trying to resolve South Africa's crisis might have removed some of its objections, political sources said.

International and domestic

pressure on the white minority government to halt violence has grown since at least 43 people died in a massacre at Boipatong, a black township south of Johannesburg, on June 17.

Police Major Christo Davidson told an inquiry headed by Judge Goldstone into the massacre Tuesday there were no police in the township at the time of the killings as alleged by residents.

He said two police armoured vehicles arrived in the township only after the attackers had left. "I can be stated without a doubt that no armed vehicle of the South African Police was deployed during the attack in Boipatong," Maj. Davidson said.

He said police received first reports about the night-time attack at about 10 p.m. and the first police vehicles arrived about a half-hour later.

The massacre at Boipatong, a largely pro-ANC township south of Johannesburg, prompted the movement to withdraw from multi-party negotiations on a democratic constitution.

Police have arrested about 80 residents of a nearby migrant workers' hostel on murder charges. The hostel is a stronghold of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, the ANC's main black rival.

Sikh kill 16 relatives of police in Punjab

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Sikh militants killed 16 relatives of policemen in three villages in the northern state of Punjab overnight in retribution for the death of a guerrilla commander, police said Tuesday.

The deaths raised to 47 the number of policemen or their families killed in the last two days in a challenge to the state government, which claimed it had begun to curb the decade-old secessionist movement.

There also was violence Tuesday in New Delhi, where two Sikh militants were killed by 200 policemen who stormed a crowded apartment building where the guerrillas were hiding out.

Like other militants in the past, the man and woman planned to kill VIPs such as legislators or government officials, said Dhirendra Kumar, deputy commissioner of the police.

After the guerrillas fired an AK-47 rifle about 500 times from their top fourth-floor apartment, police blasted holes in its roof and door and gunned them down, Kumar said.

Two policemen were injured during the shootout, which began about 7:15 a.m. and forced many residents in the apartment building to bolt doors and hide behind furniture.

"This is one of our best operations ever because there were no fatalities on our side and not a single civilian was injured," Mr. Kumar said in an interview with the Associated Press.

In Punjab, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, six Sikh militants were killed in scattered incidents overnight around the state, where radical Sikhs are seeking an independent Sikh nation.

Police claim to have killed nearly two dozen top militant commanders in the last six months. They also believe that Dr. Sohan Singh, a former director of the Punjab Health Department who became the ideological godfather of the militants, died of natural causes about three months ago.

The latest rampage against the policemen and their families apparently was intended to demoralise the predominantly Sikh Punjab Police.

Bush campaign launches attack on Clinton's economic plan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House said Monday it would launch a full-scale attack on Democrat Bill Clinton's economic plan as it would cost 2.5 million Americans their jobs.

The criticism by domestic policy adviser Clayton Yeutter at a White House news conference was part of a full-fledged Republican assault on the plan by President George Bush's Nov. 3 election opponent.

But the attackers' figures did not agree.

On Capitol Hill, Republican members of the Joint Economic Committee said the Clinton plan could cost more than three million jobs over four years.

And in Houston, where the Republicans are to hold their nominating convention next week, a statement from the campaign organisation behind Mr. Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle said the "job destruction" by Mr. Clinton would amount to 2.6 million.

"I just consider it a reasonably good college term paper on the economy," Mr. Yeutter said of Mr. Clinton's approach, comparing it to a report done by a student at university level. "I don't even believe it constitutes a plan."

"We look for a job impact of 2.5 million or so job loss rather than net job creation under the Clinton economic plan," Mr. Yeutter said.

Mr. Clinton consistently denies

that his plan would hurt the economy and did so again during a question-and-answer appearance on the CBS Television Monday.

"The same people that got us into the fix we're in now, all those Republicans that quadrupled the debt over the last 12 years, they quadrupled the debt, reduced investment and nearly bankrupted the economy so they don't like my plan," the Democratic nominee said.

His plan would raise income taxes on the top two per cent of American taxpayers and for elderly beneficiaries of the Medicare Health Insurance Program who have incomes over \$125,000.

It would also impose a 10 per cent surtax on incomes of more than \$1 million a year and would end corporate tax deductions for executive salaries over \$1 million.

Meanwhile, conservative Pat Buchanan, who was defeated by President George Bush in Republican primary elections, will endorse his rival at the party's convention next week, his sister and former campaign manager said Monday.

"He will be there to endorse the president," Bay Buchanan said of her brother at a news conference here. "Pat will do nothing to harm the Republican Party between now and election day," she said.

The president "called Pat about 10 days ago to ask that he speak" at the convention, she

said.

But she added that if the Republican Platform Committee failed to adopt some of her brother's proposals for the party manifesto, or platform, he would try to force a vote on the proposals on the convention floor next week.

Convention delegates are scheduled to vote next Monday — the convention's opening day — on formal adoption of the party platform. Mr. Buchanan is scheduled to address the convention later that day.

Mr. Buchanan, a former aide to Presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan and also a former television political commentator, badly embarrassed Mr. Bush earlier this year by picking up a quarter to a third of the vote in several primaries.

Some party leaders had resisted giving him a spot on the convention programme, saying his biting primary campaign damaged Mr. Bush's standing with voters and gave the Democrats a map of Mr. Bush's vulnerabilities months in advance of the fall campaign.

Mr. Clinton continues to hold a significant lead over President Bush nationally and in Texas, according to three new polls.

A national poll of 600 voters taken for the Boston Sunday Globe found the Democratic ticket leading the GOP's by 24 points, 56 per cent to 32 per cent. In Texas, the state that Mr.

Bush claims as home, Mr. Clinton had a 14-point lead in two separate polls.

The Texas poll, conducted for Harte-Hanks Communications Inc., showed Mr. Clinton with 49 per cent support to Mr. Bush's 35 per cent. The results, published Monday in Harte-Hanks newspapers, were based on interviews with 715 likely voters on July 30 through Aug. 7 by the Public Policy Resources Laboratory of Texas.

Mr. Clinton said Monday his experience deploying the Arkansas National Guard has helped prepare him to be U.S. commander-in-chief.

As President Bush pushed his image as the candidate who can handle foreign affairs by meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at his vacation home in Maine, the Arkansas governor faced questions about his foreign policy experience.

Mr. Clinton, appearing with running mate Al Gore on a special two-hour edition of CBS This Morning, said he's had to make tough military calls in Arkansas: Sending the Guard to train in Central America, authorising force to quell a riot of Cuban refugees in 1980, and using the Guard to remove extremists from armed camps in Arkansas.

"So, I'll make the best judgment I can based on the expert advice I get from military leaders and based on what needs to be the right thing to do for the American people at the time,"

the Democratic nominee said.

Asked about Republican attacks on his lack of foreign-policy experience, Mr. Clinton reiterated his theme that U.S. economic strength at home is key to making the nation strong abroad.

Sen. Gore, in the CBS appearance, said Mr. Clinton was ahead of the White House on recommending what role the United States should play in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Clinton, a few weeks ago, called for air strikes against the Serbs to keep relief efforts open.

"The White House tried to make political hay out of it... Now the president of the United States has said, in essence, he was right all along," Sen. Gore said.

Mr. Bush, who has bristled at that suggestion, asked the United Nations last week to adopt a resolution permitting the use of force if necessary to deliver humanitarian aid to Bosnia.

A question posed in a letter asked how Mr. Clinton, "of all people," could commit troops to a war some Americans might morally oppose. The viewer was referring to Mr. Clinton's alleged efforts to evade the Vietnam draft.

Sen. Gore jumped to Mr. Clinton's defence. "I really think that the overwhelming majority of Americans are really tired, 22 years later, of people trying to use the Vietnam War to divide this country," Sen. Gore said.

COLUMN

Moustache betrays Gulf adulterers' secret

ABU DHABI (R) — A Pakistani taxi driver wore a woman's gown and veil for trysts with another man's wife but his moustache gave him away. The Pakistani, named as H. Khan, was sentenced to 60 lashes and four months in prison in the Gulf emirate of Ras Al Khaimah. The woman will receive 90 lashes and spend 18 months in jail. Mr. Khan entered the house disguised as a woman while the husband was away but took off his veil inside. His lover's children told their father that their mother's visitor had "a big moustache". The case was reported in the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Bayan. Court sources said the report was correct but would not give further details.

Man apologises for schoolboy prank of 31 years ago

GALESBURG, Illinois (AP) — For a long time, Donald Shaver carried the burden of having put a tack on his sixth-grade teacher's chair 31 years ago. The load was finally lifted over the weekend when Mr. Shaver confessed the deed to Donald Lohmar, his teacher at the L.T. Stone School. "I hope you'll forgive me," Mr. Shaver, now a municipal court judge in Modesto, California, told Mr. Lohmar when they met. "As a matter of fact, I've never been able to get that tack out," Mr. Lohmar said. "I've been thinking of hiring an attorney." The judge was in town for his 25th high school reunion. He arranged the meeting after writing to the local newspaper for help in locating Mr. Lohmar. On Saturday, Mr. Shaver told Mr. Lohmar: "You were an easygoing teacher, but you also kept the discipline. I remember you best of all because you made our classes interesting and challenging." Mr. Lohmar blushed and told Mr. Shaver, "it is rewarding to hear that."

Elvis fan crowned with the king

DAYTON, Ohio (R) — Elvis Presley fan Gayle Bellomy left the dentist's office with the king on her crown. Ms. Bellomy said she went in last week to have a permanent crown placed on a tooth, and Dr. Daniel Collins handed her a mirror when he was done. "I could see these bold letters printed on the cap, and by golly, it spelled out 'elvis,'" she said. Ms. Bellomy hadn't specifically asked for an Elvis tooth, but she said it wasn't hard for the dentist to figure it out. "I think I send off the Elvis vibes right and left," she said. "I have 'elvis 4' on my license plate. And I talk about him all the time." Ms. Bellomy, 49, has a large collection of Elvis music, clippings and posters. Every year, she visits Graceland, Presley's estate in Memphis, where he died on Aug. 16, 1977.

Tyson slept with 15 women a day — former employee

NEW YORK (R) — Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson had sex with up to 15 women a day and had the names of some 1,300 women put into a computer with some of their sexual preferences, a man claiming to be one of his former bodyguards has told the New York Post. The ex-champ, given a six-year prison sentence last March for raping beauty-pageant contestant Desiree Washington in Indianapolis a year ago, thought he would be angry only because he didn't escort her from the hotel, the newspaper said Monday, quoting Rudy Gonzalez. The New York Post identified Mr. Gonzalez as Tyson's former bodyguard. But a spokesman for Don King, the former champion's promoter, told Reuters Monday that Mr. Gonzalez had been a driver, not a bodyguard, for the former champion and had been fired. "He's a disgruntled former employee," Mike Marley said. Mr. Gonzalez told the tabloid newspaper that Tyson said after he had sex with Washington, "I met a girl, we really hit it off. We went out, we had sex. But I really messed up — I didn't walk her to her car." Mr. Gonzalez said that before Tyson or his handlers could reach Ms. Washington she had filed a criminal complaint. Ms. Washington said later that if Tyson had admitted raping her and apologised she might not have pressed charges. Mr. Gonzalez, quoted as saying he was paid \$1,500 a week by Tyson, added that "celebrities don't like to do anything for themselves so we were his manners."